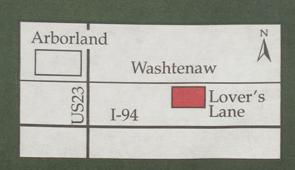




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At Jeffrey Michael Powers Beauty Spa, cares float away in this hydrotherapy bathtub featuring 78 rotating jets.

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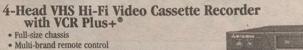
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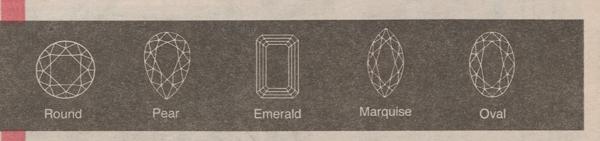


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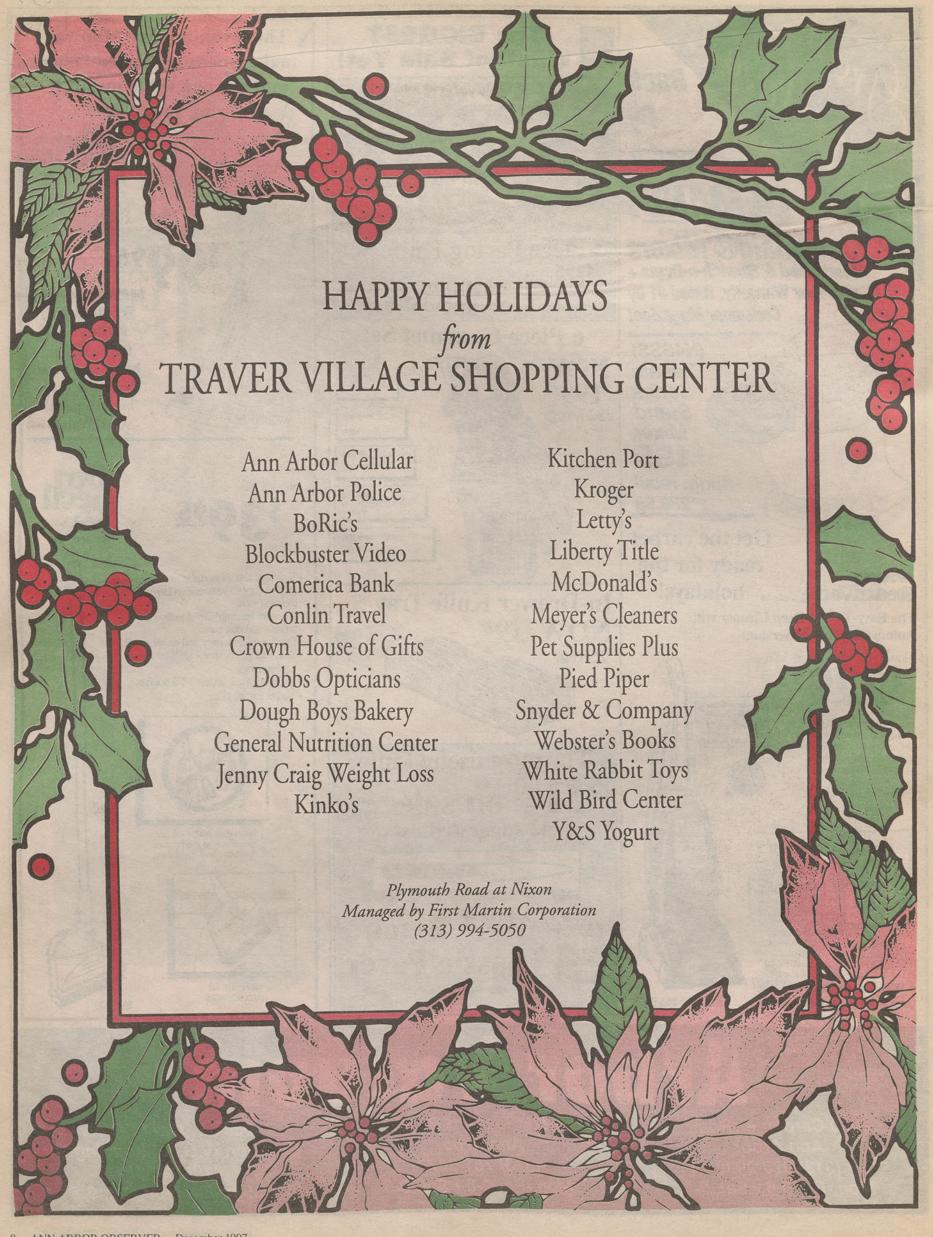
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nn Arbor Observer

DECEMBER 1997

Cover: The UMS Messiah concert at Hill Auditorium during the "Hallelujah" chorus. Watercolor by Katherine Larson.



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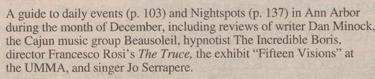
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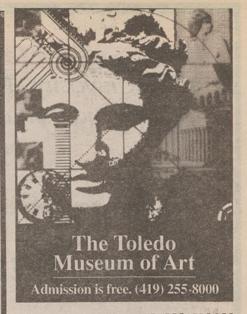
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ANNARBOR

New Libraries

The Ann Arbor District Library board plans to replace all three branch libraries-and build an entirely new one.

"We're stuffed to the gills, everything is shoehorned in place," says library director Mary Anne Hodel. A recent study found that none of the branches has enough room for the services they offer. The study also recommended a new branch in the growing southwest part of the district.

"We have to balance shelving space versus kids who want access to the Net," explains Hodel. At the Loving Branch on Packard, she says, librarians have to move the big picture books every time they host a story hour. And when librarians at the West Branch wanted to add new signs to mark the video section, they had to hang them from the ceiling. The three current branches occupy between 3,800 and 5,500 square feet; the study recommends they should be about 12,000 square feet.

The small branches worked in the past because they were mainly a repository for recreational reading books; most of the reference books and other research services were left to the main branch downtown. Now, with access to the Internet, the only barrier to offering comprehensive information services at the branches is finding the room and electrical outlets to set up computers. The branches also need more space for other new media: videos, CD-ROMs, and books on tape.

The Loving Branch, built in 1965, is the only building the library owns—the other two locations are rented. But because of obstacles on all sides (a public parking lot, a car wash, an alley, and a street), the building cannot be enlarged. And with only a slab foundation, expanding upward is also impossible. The building will probably be sold to raise money for its replacement.

The board plans to begin by replacing the Loving and Northeast branches. When those projects are completed, it will immediately begin working on the other two. One key goal is to establish the new southwest branch while there are still sites available in the Meijer-Ice Cube area.

Because the library can't afford to buy land and build four new branches from scratch, some of the branches may be privately built and leased to the library, or placed in existing rental space. Don Dely, business and finance manager of the library, says, "We can do it within the present millage as long as our assumptions are accurate.'

A committee of board members, library staff, and citizens, is now drawing up a detailed plan for the branches. As soon as it's ready, it will go to the board-possibly as soon as the first quarterly meeting in 1998. Dely predicts it will take about two years from approval of the plan to the opening of the first new branches.

Vote Update

Ann Arbor's love affair with its parks system has its

That seems to be the main news contained in the overwhelming defeat of Proposal B, a \$1.7 million bond to complete the funding for a \$2.4 million stateof-the-art environmental education facility at Leslie Science Center. Two months before the election, most city hall observers regarded Proposal B as a sure thing-especially since no one opposed the project when council deliberated putting the issue on the ballot. It seemed like a mere addendum to Proposal A, which asked voters to replace the expiring .37-mill parks mainte-

nance and repair tax with a new five-year .4725mill tax. But while the parks millage easily passed with 71 percent of the vote, the Leslie Science Center lost by the same 71-29 margin.

What happened? The obvious answer is that Leslie Science Center supporters were caught unprepared by a belated but \$ fierce campaign against Proposal B by Leslie Science Center neighbors and others who said that the proposed 12.000-square-foot

facility would endanger the ecology of the grounds and adjoining Black Pond Woods. Proposal B supporters belatedly tried to mount a counterattack—the Ecology Center and the Sierra Club endorsed the project only four days before the vote-but it was too little, too late.

It's not clear, however, whether voters were swayed by the neighbors' environmental arguments. An Ann Arbor News editorial dismissed them, but then opposed Proposal B anyway, arguing that the facility was a luxury taxpayers couldn't afford. The handful of voters the Observer ques-

tioned on election day all echoed the News's position that there are other, more urgent capital needs (repairing the Broadway bridge, building a new police station) that the city should be asking voters to fund instead.

An analysis of precinct results strongly suggests that Proposal B may have failed even if its supporters had been prepared for a fight-or perhaps even if no organized opposition had surfaced. The drop-off in support for Proposal B from support for Proposal A was fairly consistent throughout the city, except in two areas. It fell off 59 percent and 53 percent, respectively, in the two precincts adjoining the Leslie Science Center-reinforcing the impression of



Ann Arbor's five Critical Mass protests drew anywhere from a few dozen people to seventy or eighty-a pale shadow of their inspiration in San Francisco, where thousands of cyclists took over downtown streets last summer.

NIMBY-ism. More interestingly, even in the five precincts that supported Proposal B, all campus-based student neighborhoods, it still trailed twenty-six points behind support for the parks millage. Proposal B seems to have failed mainly because nobody was really excited about it.

The council races were as dull as expected, with all five incumbents (two of them unopposed) winning reelection by the expected margins. The current elevenmember council (including the mayor) is now in its third year together.

Critical Mass

A motley crowd of bicyclists blocked downtown rush-hour traffic in a series of demonstrations this fall.

Called "Critical Mass" (CM), the rides were inspired by the huge protests in San Francisco last summer, when thousands of cyclists took over downtown streets for blocks. In Ann Arbor, hand-drawn leaflets, E-mail messages, and word-of-mouth drew anywhere from several dozen to seventy or eighty riders at five biweekly rides between September and November.

Described as an "organized coincidence," CM events are notorious for their lack of organization. Many riders cut in front of cars at red lights, rode on the wrong side of the street, or suddenly changed direction.

Police took a largely hands-off attitude toward the first few demonstrations, but there were some confrontations with angry drivers. On the CM website (www. monkey.org.a2cm), a rider in the third demonstration, in early October, described a "couple of instances where impatient motor-thugs tried to intimidate us by wedging their cars into the Mass. Their bullying efforts were rewarded with lec-

> tures on sharing the road (through closed windows, of course) and the bonus of getting to wait in traffic even longer than if they had shared."

Those altercations could be the reason the police pulled the riders over on October 24. A squad car pulled ahead of the group, and two officers attempted to warn the riders to "keep to the right and no more than two abreast, or we'll start impounding bikes." The instructions were drowned out by 1960s-style call-andresponse chants of "More bikes-less

cars!" and "We're not blocking trafficwe are traffic!"

As the riders headed up Huron toward city hall, some of the participants spread out across three lanes, including the leftturn-only lane where the squad car was traveling. When one young woman came perilously close to getting bumped by the cruiser's front wheel, the officers pulled the whole group over and ticketed her and another rider (civil infractions for no bike license and riding more than two abreast). As one of the officers explained it, "We realize you have a cause, and we sympathize

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INSIDE ANN ARBOR continued





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That's what happened on the final ride, November 7. Confused by the unpredictable traffic patterns, a driver bumped a cyclist. Two more riders blocked the car's path and were knocked off their bikes. No serious injuries resulted, except for the indignity of a ride in an ambulance.

Ironically, an ambulance provided the best example of CM's purpose: encouraging more people to shift from cars to bikes for routine transportation. During the September 26 ride, the bicyclists were on Main Street between Washington and Liberty, when they heard an ambulance siren. "What do we do?" asked one rider. "Pull over!" came the reply. In an instant fifty bikes were at the curb, and the street

for some customers to switch to an all-new 734 number—though that means asking callers to learn eleven new digits instead

Airtouch and other cellular services helped create the problem. Nationally the number of phone numbers in use has grown exponentially, as customers have bought into car phones, paging services, and multiple lines at home for faxes and surfing the Internet. The credit-card swipers that have suddenly sprung up in supermarkets and on gasoline pumps all need phone numbers as well. Demand has grown so fast that the area that has long been served exclusively by 313 will, after the 734 switch, now be served by four different area codes.

Harry Semerjian, Ameritech's vicepresident for corporate planning, says customers won't have to worry long about remembering when to prefix their

Calling 734

Barbara Sprague's new business cards at the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce will list three different area

Sprague's phone number at the chamber will be listed under Ann Arbor's new area code, 734. But her cellular number will stay in the old 313 area, and her pager service is in 810. "It's awfully confusing to the outside world," says Sprague, the chamber's vicepresident of business development.

Welcome to the new world of elevendigit telephonic schizophrenia.

For fifty years, Ann Arbor's area code has been 313. But starting December 13, numbers in Ann Arbor and surrounding Washtenaw County, along with Monroe and the western part of Wayne County, can also be reached using the new 734 area code. After an eight-month transition, on July 25, 1998, the new prefix will become mandatory.

The switch to 734 won't add toll-call costs for any customers, according to Ameritech. But there's a significant amount of detail work in the transition. The U-M's internal phone system, said to be the nation's largest privately owned independent phone company, is warning departments to check their stationery, their fax identification numbers, and their modems. Internal switchboards will have to be reprogrammed, speed-dialers will need new codes entered, and printing houses are already getting orders for new letterhead and business cards. At Answering Service, Inc., vice-president Jim Robinson has devised a computerized system so that the company can tell if calls to a customer suddenly plummet because the customer's callers aren't using 734.

Cellular telephone users will face something of a dilemma, according to Jack Roettenberger, regional sales manager for Airtouch Cellular. Depending on who calls them and who they call, it may be cheaper

Wayne Milan

> After fifty years in area code 313, Ann Arbor begins to change over this month to a new prefix, 734. The new code becomes mandatory next July.

calls with the 1 + area code digits. He says that within the next couple of years, the Federal Communications Commission plans to require the use of all eleven digits, even if you're merely dialing the second line in your house to tell your child to come to dinner

Gene Dreams

A gene transfer patent issued to the U-M could lead to a royalty windfall down the road.

The patent covers the use of DNA viruses to introduce new genes into mammalian cells, including human cells. In the mid-1980s, a U-M team led by former internal medicine department chair Bill Kelley managed to place the human HPRT gene into neuron cells of rats using the herpes simplex virus as a carrier, or "vector." The rat cells then produced the hu-



A benefit concert by Judy Dow Rumelhart raised \$30,000 for the Ark.

man HPRT protein. Kelley hoped to use this method to help patients overcome Lesch-Nyhan syndrome, a devastating neurological disorder partly caused by HPRT deficiency. That hasn't happened yet, but the U-M wound up with the rights to a potentially lucrative technique.

The patent is good for seventeen years, but it won't generate much royalty income for a while. Few, if any, of the two dozen or so companies experimenting with DNA virus vectors now make commercial products using the technique. And large-scale human gene therapy using these vectors is a long way from commercial reality. The herpes simplex virus only works on nerve cells, and other DNA viruses such as the adenovirus provoke a strong immune response from the body that tends to neutralize cells containing the virus-delivered genes.

Kelley, now at the University of Pennsylvania, unabashedly hyped his technique to the New York Times. "There's nothing to it," he said, "and it's the kind of thing one could do with a million people very easily." But for now, the U-M will mostly just receive low "maintenance" royalties until the technology proves safe and effective in clinical trials. Some royalties may also come from firms making commercial proteins.

The U-M will offer nonexclusive licenses to for-profit companies. "We don't want to stand in the way" of gene therapy development, says U-M licensing specialist Anne DiSante. The university's policy also avoids the risk of the kind of public outcry that accompanied the granting of an exclusive license for ex vivo gene therapy to a Maryland biotech company. The Federal Trade Commission later forced the company to offer sublicenses.

Although the new patent is a welcome recognition of the pioneering genetics work at the U-M in the 1980s, the ultimate financial impact is impossible to predict. Because they are new, genetic patents are likely to be challenged. At Introgen Therapeutics, a Texas biotech company developing gene therapy using DNA viral vectors, president David Nance declined comment on the U-M patent, except to say, "Introgen is pleased with the solidity of our patents and our patent position."

New Money

Instead of the usual blue jeans and open collars, the crowd entering the Ark on the Friday before Halloween wore tuxes and tails, feather boas, and sequins.

The occasion was a swanky evening, with Judy Dow Rumelhart singing Broadway tunes to Ann Arbor notables who had paid \$1,000 a table for prime locations and \$100 apiece for the cheap seats. It was a very traditional Ann Arbor fund-raiser, except for one thing: the evening was a benefit for the folk music club itself.

The Ark's move to Main Street last year triggered its entry into the world of big-time fund-raising. An earnest pitch to the club's usual donors raised \$200,000, but still left it some \$700,000 in debt. So this past May, the Ark hired Marianne James, its first-ever development director. Rather than trying to continue the old effort to pay off the Ark, "I feel like we're starting a new campaign," says James. "We're kind of turning the corner and saying, 'Let's go after some big fish now."

Operationally, the Ark has always survived year to year, losing slightly on regular programming, but making up that deficit with a sold-out Ann Arbor Folk Festival each winter. (After expenses, the festival nets \$40,000-\$50,000.)

The new location brought with it higher expenses and higher stakes, says director Dave Siglin. "Now, if you lose money, you can really lose money," he says, adding that the club is quickly picking up the financial slack. He compares the Ark to the resurgent Detroit Tigers, who climbed from last place to respectability in one season.

By all accounts, the Ark's foray from flannel shirts into black ties was a success. "It raised about thirty thousand dollars net," James says, "which, next to the annual folk festival, makes it the biggest fund-raising event the Ark has ever done in one fell swoop." In all, the club hopes to raise \$1 million over the next five years.

Sports Pinch

The athletic departments at Huron and Pioneer high schools are struggling to support growing numbers of student-



Both schools have more kids playing more sports than ever before-slightly

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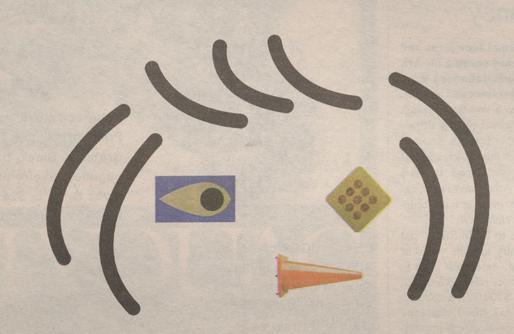
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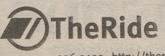
(Still driving to work?!)

66 I could drive. I have a car, but it costs \$70 a month to park downtown. I don't think that there is a parking crunch, as a lot of people seem to think. But I think

it's over-priced. Twenty-five dollars a month for a bus pass. That's it! Just show my pass and I'm on my way! This is the truth: I would not work downtown in Ann Arbor if I had to drive.



I JUST CAN'T SEE SPENDING MY MONEY TO PARK A CAR. - Jan, Ypsilanti



996-0400 http://theride.org/

more than 40 percent of their student bodies. After upgrading coed crew and women's water polo from club status this fall, Huron now has twenty-eight varsity programs. Pioneer, which added men's and women's lacrosse several years ago, has twenty-six. At the same time, both schools are getting new and improved athletic facilities, including updated pools, gyms, and tennis courts. The facilities expansion is being funded by a \$60 million bond issue voters approved two years ago. But district funds to operate all of these programs and facilities are shrinking. The two high schools currently get about \$1.3 million a year from the district for their

athletic programs-10 percent less than three years ago, and far less than they need to cover their operating expenses. "We don't have the coaching staff that we need," says Pioneer athletic director Lorin Cartwright. "Nor do we have the dollars to accommodate the students because of the great numbers we're running into." The school board has imposed a moratorium on new varsity programs, and as a costcutting measure, several individual sports at both schools that historically have been open to any student, such as tennis and golf, now limit squad size.

Given the current financial crunch, the schools aren't expecting any improvement in their district appropriations. Instead, both Huron and Pioneer are turning to private fund-raising to keep their programs afloat. The schools have not publicly disclosed how much they're raising, but it's become a significant portion of their operating budget. Huron athletic director Jane Bennett estimates that students collectively raise \$100,000 every year. On top of that, the River Rat booster club, which has an alltime high of 300 member families, brings in tens of thousands of dollars through events such as the annual spring Superball basketball tournament and Cow Pie Payoff. Fund-raising dollars at both schools now cover the cost of all team uniforms, as well as all personal items for players such as mouth guards, socks, and hats.

According to Bennett, Huron hopes to get large-scale corporate sponsorship. "A car wash will get you some quick cash, but it won't get you very much," she says. School administrators are currently revising the district's fund-raising policy to give the high schools more freedom to raise money. The new policy, for example, would allow the schools to put corporate advertising on their scoreboards and outfield fences.

From Church to B&B

An upscale, European-style bed-andbreakfast will replace the Unitarian Church at 1917 Washtenaw Avenue.

The oldest part of the present church was built in 1917 as a home for prominent ear, nose, and throat doctor Dean Myers.



Contractors Kurtz and Weinburg were so proud of the building that they used it as a logo on their checks. The Unitarians bought the house in 1946 and in 1956 added a modern-style sanctuary, designed by U-M architect George Brigham.

'We have been talking about moving for a decade," minister Ken Phifer says. "It will be enormously nice to be able to move around, to have space for a large congregation, and to handle the growth we anticipate." In the past ten years, the congregation has grown from a little under 400 members to almost 600. The Unitarians' new building, already under construction on Ann Arbor-Saline Road, will have room for 750 members.

"It's the only Swiss chalet in Ann Arbor," says buyer Christian Constantinov of the old Myers house. "We fell in love with it and want to fix it up.

Constantinov has lived around the world, in Tokyo, Hamburg, New York, and most recently in Chicago's Hyde Park area. A few months ago he accepted a job at Rockham Corporation in Rochester Hills, but his wife, Kei, a visual artist, pushed for a home in Ann Arbor. Says Constantinov, "She wanted to live where there was a soWhen the Unitarian Church moves to Lodi Township next year, its building will become a bed-and-breakfast.

cial life, street life, a university."

Working with architect Damien Farrell, Constantinov plans to restore the house into a residence where he and Kei will live with their two children. They'll turn the rest of the property (the parsonage, the old carriage house, and the sanctuary) into six or seven bed-and-breakfast units and a studio for Kei. They plan to make the modern addition more compatible with the old by adding balconies and by creating a European-style courtyard, complete with pergola and fountain.

The Unitarians' new building, designed by David Osler, will be just slightly bigger than their present quarters, but with a forty-sixacre site, there will be plenty of room to add a religious education wing later. Says Phifer, 'We want to use the land in sound ways, lovingly and caringly." They have already held outdoor services there, planted a garden, and laid out trails, and will soon set up a memorial garden. The congregation expects to be in its new building by January 1999.

They'll be spending their \$25 gift cer-

tificate on their young son Joseph at

test, find the fake and identify it by

To enter this month's Fake Ad con-

Learning Express.



More than 115 readers correctly identified last month's Fake Ad for a lecture on reuniting Gondwanaland (p. 88), with the magic word, "arborweb," hidden in the name of professor Mtarbo Rwebsi. But only one entry included a new verse to an old song:

"C'mon, continents, Subduct your brother. Every land mass get together, Try to smash one another Right Now.'

Fake Ad entrant Fritz Yunck penned those lyrics ("with apologies to Chet Powers/Dino Valenti," he says), and we

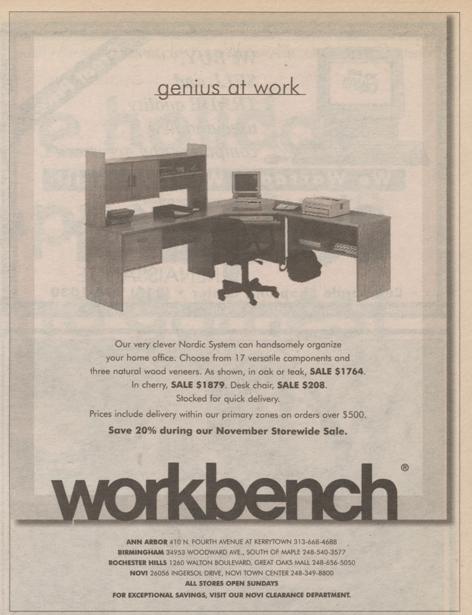
thank him for them. But he's not our winner. Jerry and Debbie Brabtake enec home the prize this month.

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Valley Auditorium 1224 West University

name and page number. You can fax (313-769-3375), E-mail (penny@ aaobserver.com), mail (Fake Ad, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104), or drop off your entry, but no phone calls, please. Your entry must include your name, address, and phone number. The

Fake Ad includes the word "arborweb" in some form. All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Wednesday, December 10, are eligible. The winner receives a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in



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Bagatelle

Former Ann Arbor ad man Dick Buckheim has built a new life in the Florida Keys.

Starting in 1968, Buckheim built Ann Arbor's biggest and best-known advertising agency. But in 1983, with projected billings for the next year at \$11 million, Buckheim and partner Dick Rowland sold out. At age forty-three, Buckheim bought a twelve-acre island off the Florida Keys and retired. Dick decided to "rearrange his life to fit his priorities," says his longtime friend, Ann Arbor attorney, Tom O'Brien.

His retirement didn't last long. Today Buckheim is commuting from his island to Bagatelle, the popular Key West restaurant in an 1880s sea captain's house that he bought and revived on a whim in 1985.

In a recent phone interview, Buckheim described his adventures since leaving Ann Arbor. Just two years after retiring, he was already restless. After driving by Bagatelle one day, he learned the business was in bankruptcy. Buckheim recalled how he had loved restoring Harris Hall

In Ann Arbor, Dick Buckheim restored Harris Hall for his ad agency, Buckheim and Rowland. In Key West, he restored this 1880s sea captain's home for his restaurant, Bagatelle.

when his agency was located there, and the restaurant business appealed to him. "I love good food, good music, ambience, good service," he says. "I redid the building a bit, opened it up inside, added some windows, paint, cleaned it up."

Bagatelle has five managers who share in the profits of the restaurant. Buckheim spends two afternoons a week "doing marketing, legal stuff, some management" and is at the restaurant on Friday and Saturday nights, especially from October to May, to greet his guests, including many old friends from Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor watercolorist Greg Sobran's vivid, colorful depictions of Key West scenes hang on Bagatelle's walls, alongside Buckheim's own paintings. "Dick and I went to art school together [at EMU]. He was always my mentor," says Sobran, a onetime Buckheim and Rowland employee. "The restaurant is great exposure for us—people aren't as



UNICEF at the PK

"I've just finished reading your article on UNICEF and Borders," Carol Lopez said in a phone call. "You left us out!" A November Inside Ann Arbor item recounted the chain's decision to drop the fundraising cards, but omitted Lopez's Main Street store, Peaceable Kingdom, from its list of businesses that continue to sell them. Lopez, who has carried UNICEF cards for twenty-two years, ordered extras this year to help make up for Borders' decision to drop them.

Corrections

Mary Schieve, attorney for the daughters of Walter Snyder, NSF's cofounder, wrote to correct a detail in our November story on the nonprofit company. "Mrs. Snyder did not come to live with [then-NSF president Nina McClelland] after her husband's death," Schieve wrote. "Quite the contrary; Nina was a renter in Mrs. Snyder's home."

Our apologies to Tony Reffells, Demoratic council candidate in the Fourth Ward; we misspelled his name in last month's election story. We also belatedly learned that the address given in September for Joe Loy, whose T-shirts advertise the imaginary Ann Arbor restaurant Joe's Possum Diner, was incorrect. Possums Forever can be reached at P.O. Box 3368, Ann Arbor 48106.

A calendar listing in November incorrectly stated that a performance by the St. Vladimir Orthodox Church Choir would be held at the church on Jackson Road. The November 9 concert in fact took place at the U-M Art Museum. Our apologies to those who were inconvenienced by the error.

relaxed in a gallery as they are in a restaurant."

According to Sobran's wife, Wanda, Buckheim "is torn between being a businessman and an artist." Every summer, Buckheim, his wife, Susan, and their son and daughter rent a house in the mountains of Mexico, where Dick spends his time painting.

Buckheim's island is currently on the market for \$1.49 million. Tom O'Brien predicts that in the next few years, Buckheim will "pull up stakes" again and move with his family to "San Miguel, New Mexico, the East Coast, or maybe Wyoming."

Buckheim's former agency, now BK&M, has been based in the old Allmendinger Organ Factory on South First Street since 1989. In November, the Ann Arbor News reported that the agency has been acquired by a suburban Detroit ad agency and will soon be leaving town for Troy.

CD Tree

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Janet and David Fritsch, residents of Ann Arbor's Georgetown neighborhood, are decorating for the holidays with obsolete compact discs.

Last Christmas season, the Fritsch family gathered up all of their passé software discs and hung them in the crab apple tree in their front yard. During the day, the silvery discs flash and glitter in the breeze. At night, they sparkle in the Christmas lights that also festoon the tree.

So why do the Fritsches have so many ready-to-be-discarded software discs? Their son Andy, an eighth-grader at Tappan Middle School, is an Internet junkie who is currently creating Tappan's official webpage. Always looking for free software, Andy is on numerous mailing lists that constantly deposit catalogs and free discs in the Fritsch mailbox. The family also buys a lot of software for home use.

Last year, the CD tree had eight discarded discs wafting in the wind. Year number two found Andy outside in November hanging sixteen.



Andy Fritsch has discovered that his obsolete software CDs make dandy Christmas decorations.

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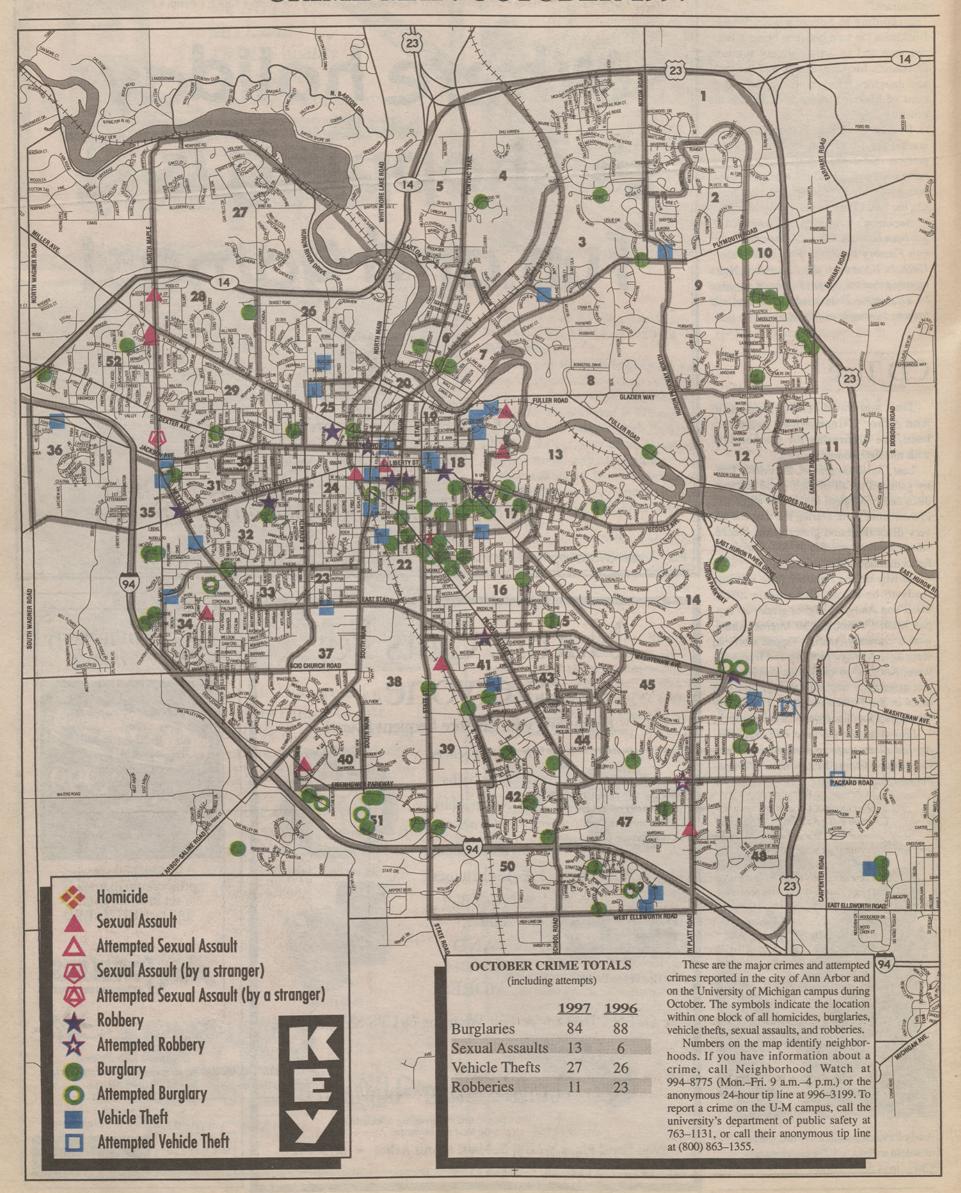
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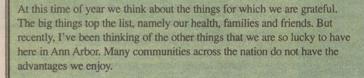


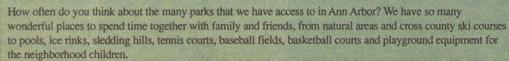
FOR THE

The Ann Arbor City Government Newsletter Winter 1997 Volume 9 Number 4

Tis the Season to be Thankful!

By Neal G. Berlin, City Administrator





How about the convenience of curbside recycling? Most of us recycle faithfully. How strange it would feel to throw away a newspaper! Many communities have no curbside recycling collection at all, let alone weekly. Some people actually have to load their recyclables in their car and drive them across town. Can you imagine?

Here is a biggie. We have a thriving downtown. Sadly, there are not as many of them as there were in years past. Ann Arbor has a great center that gives our town a wonderful sense of community. On a snowy winter evening with the holiday lights on the trees, a walk down Main Street can fill your heart with the spirit of the season.

And this short list does not even touch on our diverse population, amazing assortment of restaurants, a thriving and involved university community, a winning football team, entertainment offerings that cross all categories, and the varied nonprofits working to make Ann Arbor better for those less fortunate. Many of us take these amenities for granted.

In this season there are many ways in which we can show our gratitude to the community. Our Community Development Department has a few ideas for organizations that can use your help. The American Red Cross operates the Ann Arbor Assistance Program which provides funds to prevent utilities from being shut off and to prevent evictions. Donations are always welcome and can be made directly to the American Red Cross or when paying your water utility bill.

There are many agencies that provide help to individuals with special needs and perhaps no nearby family. The groups that they serve are sometimes overlooked during the holidays. For example, the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living which focuses on services for physically or otherwise health-impaired persons and their families; the HIV-AIDS Resource Center-Washtenaw which provides services to persons and families living with HIV/AIDS; Michigan Ability Partners which provides supportive services for homeless, disabled persons; Neighborhood Senior Services which facilitates independent living for seniors; Options Center which provides employment assistance and supportive services to ex-offenders and their families; and Trailblazers of Washtenaw, Inc. which provides clubhouse activities and support to mental health consumers. Any of these agencies could use your help.

Monetary donations are not the only means of giving. Do you know a person who could use your help with some work around the house? How about shoveling the walk for an elderly neighbor? These are the kinds of things that really make a difference in our community.

Happy holidays and best wishes for a great new year.



BROWN BAG CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING **DEBUTS IN JANUARY!**

As part of the city's ongoing customer service efforts, the city will begin offering monthly brown bag programs to help employees learn new and better ways to improve customer service. Watch for signs of improved customer service at your local city office!

VOLUNTEERS HELP PROMOTE RECYCLING AT SOUTH MAPLE

A "Waste Watchers" youth recycling education program was piloted at South Maple apartments this summer. The Waste Watcher children helped distribute recycling bins to their neighbors. They met weekly to learn about waste issues and to collect the recyclables. With support from the Peace Neighborhood Center, the Waste Watchers toured the city's Materials Recovery Facility to see first-hand what happens to the city's recyclables.

South Maple resident Robbin Rene Goldston was responsible for inspiring and coordinating this pilot based on her experience with a similar Kalamazoo Recycle Rangers program. The city's Solid Waste Department, Peace Neighborhood Community Center and the Ecology Center assisted with the undertaking. Thank you volunteer Waste Watchers!



The South Maple Waste Watchers demonstrate their enthusiasm for recycling.

". . . government of the people, by the people, for the people . . . "

Update From The Parks



GOLF IN THE SNOW? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

For "die-hard" golfers or those who want the opportunity to blame their score on the weather or those just looking for something different to do, Leslie Park Golf Course is offering two wintry golf events:

Annual Chili Open Golf Tournament -Saturday, January 10, \$12/per person

Annual Blizzard Ball Scramble -Saturday, February 14 - \$48/4-person team

Each tournament offers six holes of golf in the snow and piping hot refreshments! Call 971-6840 or 994-2786 for registration information.

PARKS DEPARTMENT SELECTS "GOLDEN TROWEL" AWARD WINNERS...

The Ann Arbor Park Advisory Commission, in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Ann Arbor Garden Club, this year recognized Ann Arbor individuals and businesses who worked hard to beautify their surroundings with attractive landscaping and gardening. Created in 1986 by the Park Advisory Commission, The Golden Trowel applauds those who put forth a little extra effort in making our community a pleasant and enjoyable place in which to work and play. This year's winners were as follows:

INDIVIDUAL HOME OWNER GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD:

Paula Gallagher - 720 W, Washington James & Ray McCandlish - 210 Eighth St. Larry & Rowena Matthews -1609 S, University Jane Grace Bowman - 2637 Whitewood Connie Kralik - 2606 Whitewood & Linda Hammis - 2608 Whitewood (Combined garden between residences)

CONTINUING EXCELLENCE INDIVIDUAL HOME OWNER GOLDEN TROWELAWARD:

The Bates Family - 1900 Dexter Robert & Darra Weisman - 2961 Devonshire

COMMERCIAL GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD:

Big Market Deli - 341 E. Huron
Fine Flowers - 300 W, Huron
1st & Miller Technology Center (Corner of 1st & Miller)
Master Gardener: Diana LaPointe,
Care Giver: John Barber
Carlton Court Apartments - 2976 Cascade

CONTINUING EXCELLENCE COMMERCIAL GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD:

Village Townhomes - 2220 Pittsfield -Gardeners: Pete & Julie Dodge Forest Hills Cooperative Townhouses-2351 Shadowood

Awards were presented at a recent City Council meeting. For more information, please call 994-2780.

NATURAL AREA PRESERVATION IN ANN ARBOR HONORED

The Natural Area Preservation (NAP) Division of the Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation has been awarded the 1997 "Volunteer in Partnership Award" by the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, an international environmental organization dedicated to preserving biological diversity. The award was given to NAP for its ongoing support of the Conservancy and for collaboration on the restoration efforts at Ives Road Fen Preserve in southeast Michigan. NAP and TNC have assisted with each other's prescribed ecological burn, and shared information and expertise on a wide range of environmental issues. NAP was also recognized for its role in establishing the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Working Group, and for writing and publishing a popular brochure on native landscaping. The award was received by Dave Borneman, NAP Coordinator, at TNC's annual meeting in Grand Marais, Michigan on October 11, 1997.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS GET FACELIFT

Several neighborhood parks 'recreational surfaces' have been renovated this summer and fall. Tennis courts were renovated at West Park, Clinton Park, Leslie Park, Sugarbush Park, and Hunt Park. Renovated basketball courts include Clinton Park and Hunt Park. New walking/bicycling paths were installed at Sugarbush Park, Leslie Park, Clinton Park, Maryfield Wildwood Park, and Bromley Park. Renovated paths include Winewood Thaler Park, Wurster Park, and Gallup Park. These smoother surfaces should provide a more enjoyable and accessible park experience!

Maryfield Wildwood Park by now should have a new play area, and look for the following park renovations in early spring: West Park, Belize Park, Burns Park, Pilgrim Park, Esch Park and Woodbury Park.

For more information on any of these projects, please call Amy Kuras or Pam Stuckman, Park Planners at 994-2780.

HURON HILLS SKI CENTER GEARING UP FOR CROSS COUNTRY SKI SEASON

The Ann Arbor Department of Parks & Recreation will operate Huron Hills Cross Country Ski Center from December 8 through March 8, if weather permits. The center provides groomed cross-country ski trails and equipment rental. Trails are open on weekdays from 10:00am - 6:00pm for \$2.50 per person and on weekends and holidays from 9:00am -7:00pm at \$3.00 per person. Ski rental is \$6/adults and \$3.75/youths & seniors for weekdays and \$7/adults and \$4.75/youths & seniors on weekends and holidays. Instruction and season passes are also available.

As an added attraction, Moonlight Serenade is scheduled for Fridays, December 12, January 16, and February 13, from 6:30 - 9:00pm. Cross country ski under the stars on specially lighted ski paths. Regular trail fees and rental rates apply.

Call 971-6840 for more information or stop by the Ski Center located at 3465 E. Huron River Drive in Ann Arbor.



Four high school teams will participate in the SEC Holiday Hockey Tournament December 18 - 20 at Veterans Memorial Ice Arean, 2150 Jackson Road in Ann Arbor. Dexter, Pinckney, Saline and Chelsea High Schools (all members of the Southeast Conference) will compete for the title. Games are as follows:

Dexter Vs. Pinckney
Saline Vs. Chelsea
Consolation game
Championship game
Dec. 20
Dec.

Admission is \$4.25/adults and \$3.50/youths and seniors. For more information, please call 769-9140.

WINTER CARNIVAL Annual Winter Carnival Feb 13-14 Sponsored by

the Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation

Friday, February 13 Moonlight Serenade: Huron Hills Ski Center Mack Pool Luau: Mack Indoor Pool Winter Evening: Cobblestone Farm

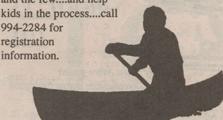
Saturday, February 14 Buhrrr Fest: Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Rink Blizzard Ball Scramble: Leslie Park Golf Course Owl Prowl: Leslie Science Center Victorian Valentine Tea Party: Kempf House (also on Sunday, Feb. 14)

For more information, please call 994-2780.

EARLY REGISTRATION POSSIBLE FOR 1998 CORPORATE **CHALLENGE CANOE** RACE

Although there are several months left before the Corporate Challenge Canoe Race, Parks and Recreation organizers are offering companies an early registration discount: Register by January 30 and receive a \$25 discount off your entry! The Corporate Challenge Canoe Race is

scheduled for Sunday, July 12, at Gallup Park boat launch at 11:30am. The two-person canoes will have to row 3/4 mile, including one easyto-maneuver turn, offering just the right amount of challenge for any canoeist. This is a chance for companies to be among the strong, the brave and the few....and help kids in the process....call 994-2284 for



Environmental Update

WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULES



28 and will resume April 1, 1998. The Drop-Off Station on 2950 E. Ellsworth operates with winter hour schedule until April and is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

Due to the year end holidays there will be no refuse or recycling collection services provided on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 1997 and on New Year's Day, Thursday January 1, 1998. The normal Thursday route collections will occur on Friday and the Friday collection areas will be serviced on Saturday during these two holiday weeks. The Drop-Off Station on 2950 E. Ellsworth will be closed on Christmas and New Years Day. There is no interruption of collection service for Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 19.

OPEN HOUSES

The city's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) hosts two open houses every month on the second Saturday morning and second Tuesday afternoon. The Open Houses give the public a chance to view the recycling and waste transfer operations from the windows of the Education Center and to ask questions of the tour guides. There is no admission fee. The MRF Education Center may also be booked for free weekday group tours. Please call 994-2807 for more information and directions.

During the December MRF Open Houses there will be recycled-content craft supplies available to allow each visitor to make two small gifts and wrappings. The projects are designed for children, but adults are encouraged to make these gifts as well. Tuesday, December 9, 1-4 p.m. and Saturday, December 13, 10-Noon.

Fish like it neat.

You won't catch fish messing up their home.

But we mess up their home every day, often without realizing it.

Litter, motor oil, gasoline, fertilizers and other pollutants that spill on our streets and sidewalks are carried into the storm drain system each time it rains. This water goes directly into the Huron River, unfiltered and untreated.

> Be neat. Keep storm drains for rainwater only. It's that easy.



A partnership of the Huron River Watershed Council, City of Ann Arbor Water Utilities Department, USEPA and MDEQ.

CHRISTMAS TREE

The City of Ann Arbor will provide curbside collection of holiday evergreen trees for a twoweek period in January from Monday, January 12 through Friday, January 23, 1998. Please have all trees at the curb by 7am on your weekly refuse and recycling day.

Remember to remove all plastic tree bags, ornaments and stands from the trees. These trees are processed into mulch and any metal, glass or plastic left on the trees may harm the operators, ruin the equipment and spoil the finished product.

Evergreen wreaths with wire or plastic backings should be placed in the trash, or if too large, on top of the trash can.

Ann Arbor apartment managers may schedule a special tree pickup with the Solid Waste Department by calling 994-2807.





ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor joined communities across the nation

on November 15 to celebrate America Recycles Day. This year's theme was to "Keep Recycling Working: Buy Recycled" and the goal was to heighten public awareness of the environmental and economic benefits of recycling. To this end, a mailin campaign was launched to encourage people to pledge to recycle and buy recycled-content products. Winners of a solar-powered, 3-bedroom "American Green Dream Home" and other prizes will be drawn on December 15 from the pledge cards mailed to the Michigan Recycling Coalition or e-mailed to www.americarecyclesday.org.

Several special America Recycles programs were held at the city's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and promoted on specially pre-printed grocery bags distributed across the state. If you are interested in viewing a half-hour video special on your home cable television channel 10, "Complete the Circle, How to Buy Recycled, with Joanne Woodward" produced by the Environmental Defense Fund, just call Community Television Network at 994-7422 and request a replay time.

Three more reasons to watch CTN Cable Ch. 10

"Crime Beat"

Your link to the Ann Arbor Police.

Thursdays - 10:00 a.m. • Saturdays - 2:00 p.m. Sundays - 8:30 p.m. • Wednesdays - 6:30 p.m.

"FYI"

City of Ann Arbor news magazine

Sundays - 7:30 p.m. Mondays - 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. • Thursdays - 1:00 p.m. Fridays - 6:30 p.m. • Saturdays - 4:30 p.m.

"At Issue"

City of Ann Arbor Public Affairs

Wednesdays - 12:00 p.m. • Fridays - 6:00 p.m. Saturdays 4:00 p.m. • Sundays - 8:00 p.m.



COMMUNITY TELEVISION NETWORK

Call 769-7422

Word On The Street

SMART STREETS

When driving around Ann Arbor you may observe a large, white trailer with a city seal on the side parked on the shoulder or in a parking lane. This is the city's Speed Monitoring and Awareness Radar Trailer, affectionately known as the "SMART" trailer. It is used to collect data about traffic volume and speed. In response to requests from citizens and staff, city workers will install the trailer on streets which are believed to have a problem with speeding. The trailer collects 24 hours of data for each direction, and then compiles a profile of the street, giving minimum and maximum speeds, total volume, average speed and 85th percentile speed. The trailer can also be used as an awareness tool, and is equipped with speed limit signs and the capability to display the approach speed of oncoming drivers. This method is used on major entry corridors and on streets with a confirmed speeding problem. If you have any

questions about the SMART program, please feel free to contact the Transportation Division at 994-2818.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL

Graffiti is the unauthorized marking of public or private property. When graffiti strikes private property, it is the property owner's responsibility to remove the undesired material. When graffiti tags public property, the city makes every effort to remove the graffiti as soon as possible. The city has purchased a graffiti removal pressure washer which utilizes biodegradable baking soda crystals as a cleaning agent. The success of this machine has been demonstrated by the Public Services Department this summer as crews have been cleaning at least one graffiti location per week. For more information contact the Public Services Department at 994-2744

Employee Spotlight



Susan Salmeron

Susan Salmeron's name

befits her perfectly. This soft-spoken employee with the Southern drawl in the city's Information Services Division (Administrative Services Department) is an artist, away from city hall, who is multi-talented and possesses many interests. Her distinctive name seems only right for her different kind of life.

Since June of 1990, Salmeron's day job has been at city hall. After working as a clerk-typist III in Human Resources for a year, she became a senior secretary in Information Services. In addition to performing duties of a general clerical support nature, she administers the city's voice mail system, a task she greatly enjoys. She sets up voice mailboxes, troubleshoots problems, and is currently upgrading software for the year 2000. Her voice is often heard on various departmental voice mail messages as well as general broadcast messages to city employees. She also works very closely with Administrative Services Director James Amin, who says that Salmeron is an outstanding employee. "She has a broad understanding of human nature and the ability to apply what she learns in a real world setting. If we could clone Susan, we'd take two more of her," he says.

Tuesday evenings and weekends are when Salmeron works as a potter, which she's done for the last 15 years. Working in her basement studio at home and at the Village Potters Guild in Plymouth (where she serves as vicepresident), she specializes in pit-fired ceramics, platters and various decorative pieces. She also works at the Atrium Gallery in Northville and is enjoying participating in the Ann Arbor Art

Association's Holiday Gallery, which started last month and will run past Christmas.

A native of southeastern Oklahoma, Salmeron attended Eastern Oklahoma State University and lived in Dallas, Texas for 13 years, before moving to Ann Arbor. It was in Dallas that she met her husband, Ralph Salmeron, who is employed at Community Television Network of Ann Arbor. Mother of Jason (27) and Kelli (19), she recently became a proud grandparent of Jason's new daughter, Addison Paige.

In their spare time the Salmerons enjoy going to movies (they are members of the Detroit Area Film and Video Club, a nonprofit organization), and they hold season tickets for UM hockey games. "We had to come up with activities to get us through the winter," she says. "We have lots

I love my work and we love Ann Arbor," Salmeron further states. "I plan to retire here."

The City of Ann Arbor is very fortunate to have Susan Salmeron as an employee. Best wishes for your continued success, Susan!

> -Winifred Northcross, Associate Administrator/City Clerk

The City of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of our resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

The purpose of For The People, The Ann Arbor City Government Newsletter, is to transmit factual information to the community from Ann Arbor city staff on a quarterly basis. Please send comments to:

City of Ann Arbor Public Information Office 100 North Fifth Avenue Ann Arbor, MI 48107 313.994.1766

COMMUNITY UPDATE



GriefNet's community of loss

People from around the world are finding comfort at an Ann Arbor website

e are the grief and loss site for the world," says GriefNet founder Cendra Lynn. Sitting in a back room of her west-side home, Lynn is surrounded by the boxes, papers, and folders that cover the floor. One wall hosts a gallery of personal photographs, and a foam spider dangles from a ceiling light. On her computer, Lynn calls up the colorful World Wide Web site she runs to help people who are grieving over the death of a loved one.

The cluttered room is the emotional and spiritual center of GriefNet (its digital home is across town at ICNet). Since the site appeared on-line in early 1994, mourners from around the globe have sought solace from its support groups, swapping E-mail with others who are suffering from similar losses. In September, more than 1,000 people posted messages to its mailing lists. Every week, about 60,000 people visit GriefNet's website, which includes a "memorial garden" of written tributes and information on counseling and support resources.

GriefNet (http://griefnet.org/) began with a general bereavement mailing list. From that, visitors have spun off about twenty-five specialized lists: for widows, for adults who have lost siblings, for women who have put babies up for adoption, for women who have had abortions. A list for grieving parents generated several spin-offs: for parents whose children committed suicide, died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, died in accidents. Another list unites people who have had, or want to have, spiritual contact with the deceased.

"I've given up trying to count how many people say GriefNet saved their lives," Lynn says. "I get that mail all the time." Text on a computer screen may not seem as comforting as a touch or a voice, but several GriefNet users say the distance can actually help. They say GriefNet came through for them after well-intentioned family members and friends tired of their grieving.

After her brother died of cancer in February, Kathleen Kilburn joined a real-life support group near her home in northern Ontario. But she found she didn't always want to share the floor. "I often just need... to focus totally and selfishly on my brother—his life, his death, his loss, my loss—without being civilized and polite and concerned about taking up too much time," she says. "So I turn to the list."

Linda Gleason Ritchie of Lake Charles, Louisiana, visited GriefNet after her mother's death in October 1994 left her "almost paralyzed" with grief and anger. Support mail poured in from Australia, Jamaica, Guyana, and the United Kingdom.

"Being able to vent without fear of causing more pain to my family, or receiving criticism from well-meaning friends who think that enough is enough, helped me to come to terms with and proceed with my grief," Ritchie says.

Their testimonials support Lynn's joking assertion that "the Internet was created by extraterrestrials to save the human race." When anxiety attacks at 3 a.m., she points out, your best friend or your therapist may not be available—but GriefNet is.

A clinical psychologist, Lynn started the Michigan chapter of the Association for Death Education and Counseling in 1983 and served as its president until 1990. One of her activities for the group was a newsletter on grieving resources. After stepping down as president, she continued to publish the newsletter through her own nonprofit organization, Rivendell Resources. At a 1993 conference, someone suggested posting information on-line. With the help of some Ann Arbor Internet wizards, GriefNet was born.

ike its users, GriefNet staffers come from all over the world and rarely meet face-to-face. A man from Britain and a woman from the Netherlands have both served as webmasters; Lynn has never met the woman and has met the man only once. A woman in Washington, D.C., is working to help GriefNet earn its own way instead of relying on donations. Toward that end, GriefNet has accepted ads from hospices, therapists, music sellers, and funeral directors (the last are accepted only if they pass Lynn's scrutiny). Lynn is also planning to expand a bookstore available on the GriefNet site. In the meantime, the site still solicits donations on its homepage, and Lynn says she is "starved" for local volunteers. "I need someone to organize the junk in the office," she says. "I need a secretary.'

Last year, the National Information Infrastructure named GriefNet a finalist in its "Community Awards" category. The idea of a "community" whose members never physically meet may seem strange to those unfamiliar with the World Wide Web, but according to Lynn, GriefNet users often feel closer to one another than to people in their daily lives.

"There's nothing more intimate than grief," she says. "There's nothing that cuts more to your bone marrow."

This is particularly apparent when wandering through GriefNet's memorial garden. Panels fill the screen in a pattern that brings to mind the AIDS quilt. A name appears on each panel and links to a written tribute. There's a memorial for "Kyle Andrew," a baby lost to miscarriage, and for a son murdered at the age of thirty-two.

Lives are celebrated on GriefNet as well. Howard Gorle, a minister from Hamilton, Ontario, writes of his friend Paul, who died nearly thirty years ago of testicular cancer while in his mid-twenties. After losing his testicles, Paul held a memorial service for his "dearly departed nuts." About thirty people came, bearing coconuts, Brazil nuts, pecans, walnuts. "There were even a few rather obscene carrots granted admission based on their unusual tendency to grow in the shape of human genitalia," Gorle writes. Paul's cancer spread to his lungs, and he died a few months after the party. Gorle stayed with his friend's body after the death, and when it was being transferred to a stretcher, he noticed Paul had tied a bag of his memorial nuts between his legs and included a note: "It takes BALLS to die smiling." Writes Gorle, "He did. I miss him. Actually, I'm crying.

-Mary Jean Babic



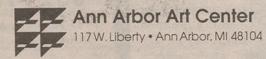


The Art Center is the place to be for Holiday Festivity!



Through December 30, the Gallery Shop fills the entire first floor of the Art Center building with hand-crafted artwork ideal for holiday gift-giving. Pick a pot and paint it for anyone on your gift list in Feat of Clay! And, as always, ArtVentures provides cultural art projects for your child to create and bring home to you.

Call (313)994-8004 x 101 for Holiday hours.







Lewis Jewelers asks...

off what?



Have you been confused by the tremendous discounts offered by some merchants? Well, so have we, and we've been jewelers for many years.

We could not survive if we offered merchandise at 70% off. If a company is going out of business and is just interested in liquidating merchandise, it might be the better of two evils to lose money on a transaction. But a healthy company can't survive that way. Our only guess is that the jewelers offering 70% off are marking their jewelry up to an unrealistically high "regular" price from which to base their discounting claim.

The market place today is seeing a lot of what is called "deep discounting." The consumer must be aware that most jewelers cannot survive if they are selling wholesale or below. They either have to create a "regular" price which is unduly high or offer inferior quality.

Our family has based our business on fair prices and fine quality for 75 years. If you are shopping for an item of fine jewelry, please see us. We'll show you what we have to offer and explain how quality jewelry, that is made to last a lifetime, is a bargain in itself.

One of Ann Arbor's most competent jewelers...

your assurance of honest value - and so close to home.

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ANN ARBORITES



Joan and Will Weber

After almost twenty years running Third World tours, they're preparing for the biggest adventure of their lives

Joan and Will Weber were pursuing doctorates at the U-M (hers in psychology and education, his in natural resources), when some friends mentioned that they were planning a trip to Nepal. The Webers, who had taught in the Himalayan nation, were shocked by the prices their friends had been quoted. "We said, 'You could pay for us to lead you around and it would still be less,' recalls Joan. Their friends took them up on the offer, and Journeys, an "ecotour" company that specializes in travel to Third World countries, was born.

That was in 1978. During Journeys' early years, the couple led one or two trips a year. Today, they employ ten people in Ann Arbor and run hundreds of annual tours to forty-five countries in Asia, Africa, Antarctica, the Pacific, and Latin America.

Their longest journey to date begins in February. "Along with our clients, we've wondered if we might be ever more daring in breaking from our regular routines," the couple writes in their eye-catching, seventy-five-page Global Expedition Catalog. "Could we leave our office, take our kids out of school, and lose ourselves in a trip of several months?"

The answer is yes. The family will begin their tour in Vietnam, then travel throughout Asia and to Indonesia and Australia, and end up, next July, in the Samoa Islands. Parts of the trip will intersect with other Journeys tours. Their children, Robin, fifteen, and Noah, ten, will be in touch with their schools in Ann Arbor via a laptop computer and E-mail.



ourneys' Jackson Road office is papered with large photos of grinning groups in National Geographic settings. Will, who is 6' 4", gray-haired, and reflective, does most of the exploratory trips for new tours and handles the office computers (four databases track trip information). Joan, who has chin-length blond hair, organizes trips for families, women, and

students, and manages personnel.

In a compelling voice with a New York accent that calls to mind NPR's Susan Stamberg, Joan describes an incident on an all-women's trip to Nepal: "I have a friend named Nayan in Nepal who is a teacher. One day on the trip, she met us at a village with saris for all of us that she had collected from her friends, and dressed us! It's six meters of cloth—there's a trick to wrapping it... Once we were bedecked we were almost afraid to move." The sari-clad group of Americans then struggled to eat a traditional meal, with their hands, "laughing and taking pictures of each other."

The story exemplifies Journeys' philosophy of "ecotourism": travel respectful of local ecology and culture. The now trendy term hadn't been coined when the Webers started their company, but their code of ethics, published in their catalog, stresses that travelers should "aspire to invisibility in nature" and "learn proper local etiquette." Specific guidelines for Journeys travelers include the following: do not distribute nondegradable, breakable gifts; don't use recordings to attract birds or wildlife; and try to attend village dances and cultural pageants.

Will and Joan are well aware of how Americans' affluence contrasts with the poverty of most of the countries they visit. "These countries are very poor," says Joan. "But there's a distinction between urban poverty and rural poverty. Urban poverty is desperate. In remote rural areas, you can forget that people are poor... because people feel taken care of by their community."

The couple has set up an "Earth Preservation" fund for small-scale projects rang-

ing from antipoaching campaigns in East Africa to monastery restoration in the Himalayas. They also help out in more informal ways. Last summer, on a trip to Tanzania, the Webers suggested that participants bring books or toys to donate to a preschool near their safari camp. Moments after the group arrived at the school, at least a hundred villagers surrounded them, eager to see the foreign visitors.

n the company's first few years, Joan supported herself and Will by working as a school psychologist at Boysville in Clinton. But as the business grew, she, too, was eventually able to work full-time at Journeys. "At one point, it was like, 'Wow! This is supporting us!" she recalls. One reason the company has been successful is the Webers' friend and business associate Pemba Sherpa, a native of Nepal and a Himalayan expert, who has worked with them since the beginning. In a ricepaper guest book the couple keeps at their home, Sherpa wrote, "Will, you are my brother in the past, you are my brother now, and you will be my brother forever."

Appropriately enough, Joan and Will met at a meeting organizing the very first Earth Day at the University of Wisconsin, in 1970. (Will was an undergrad there; Joan an exchange student from Mount Holyoke.) She was a Jewish, middle-class Brooklyn girl; his father a factory worker in Racine, Wisconsin. After graduation, Will joined the Peace Corps, which sent him to Nepal. Joan joined him, and they married in 1975, shortly before moving to Ann Arbor.

Sometimes, her life seems pretty amazing to the city-raised Joan, who never camped until she met Will. She confesses, "No matter how short or long the trip is, I have an intense anxiety attack two weeks before." But, she adds, when it comes time to leave, "I'm really ready to go."

The couple's strong ties to Ann Arbor actually make it easier for them to leave. "We wouldn't appreciate our travels as much," Joan explains, "if we weren't so rooted." And they get a kick out of how their kids respond to frequent immersions in other cultures. Noah recently surprised his grandmother by saying to her, "Shikamoh"—a Swahili term of respect that literally means "I hold your feet."

—Debbie Eisenberg Merion



impression

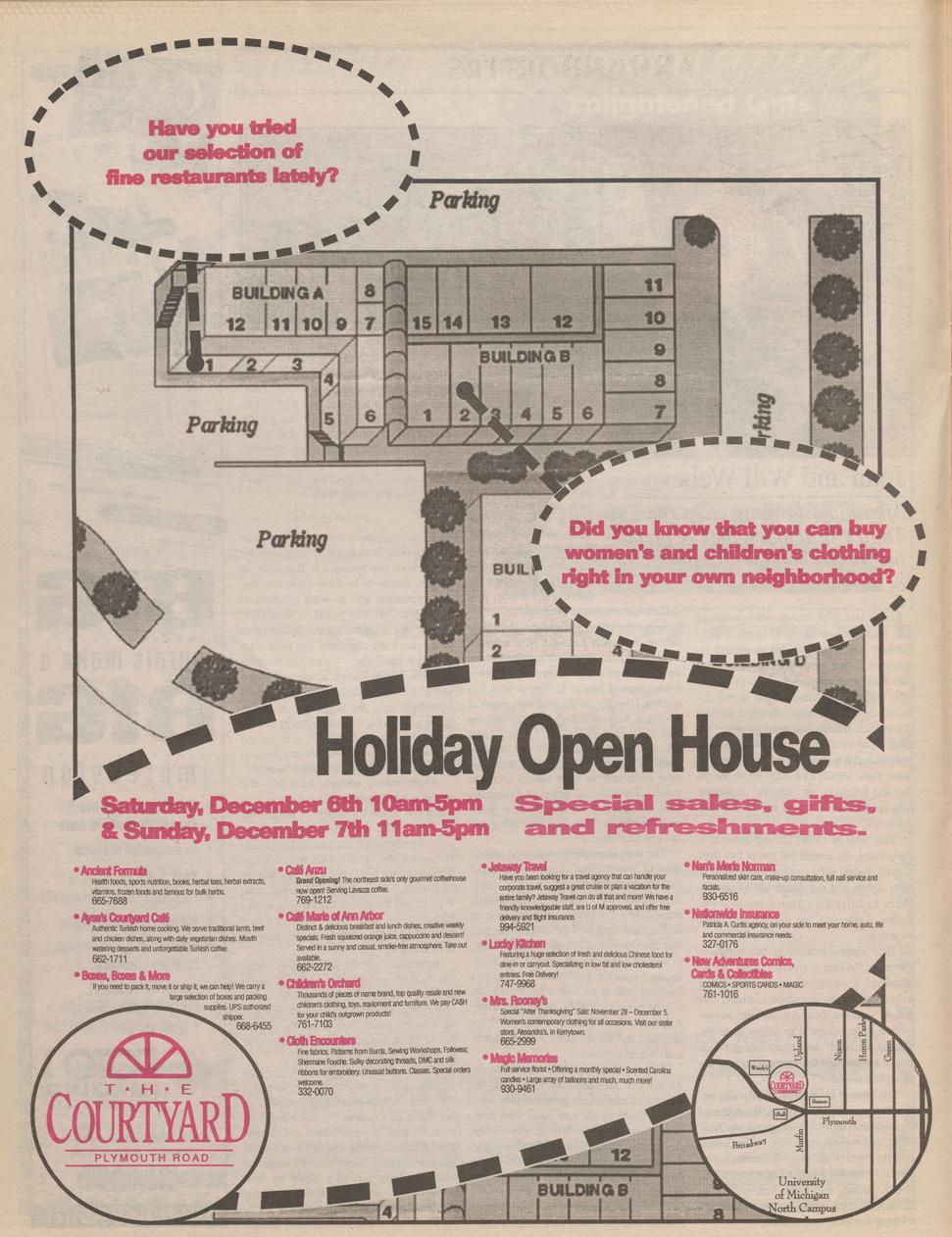
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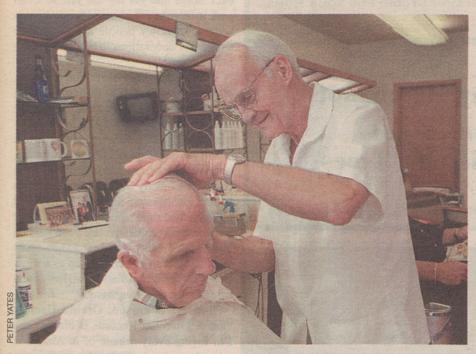
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AROUND TOWN



Thirty-eight years of haircuts

Will Leonard, barber

B arry Kalellis discovered Will Leonard's barbershop on West Stadium in 1965. A student at the U-M, he didn't like the haircuts he was getting at campus barbershops.

"I wanted the kind of haircut that I got back home in New Jersey. From old-time barbers who took the time to know you, who took their time with you, who shaved the back of your neck with shaving cream and a straightedge razor. Someone told me about this shop way out on West Stadium Boulevard. I borrowed a car and got my first haircut from Will Leonard—and thirty-two years later, I'm still going to him."

Will Leonard had already been in the West Stadium Shopping Center for six years when Kalellis discovered him. Now seventy, the careful, soft-spoken, silverhaired barber has cut the hair of one west-side family for four generations. Although he stopped giving shaves in the 1970s ("A Gillette Sensor will do a better job than any barber could," he says), Leonard, like the other barbers in his shop, still brushes shaving cream on the back of your neck and takes it off with a straight razor.

Leonard Barbers has five chairs; the owner works at the second chair from the window. Why doesn't he take the most visible spot? Before Leonard can answer, Judy Anderson, who is working at the window chair, says with a grin, "He won't use this chair because it's the dangerous one. A car once came through the store window and hit it. That's why Will puts me here," she adds.

Her customer, a man of ninety-three, doesn't smile, but Will Leonard does. "It's true. A car went through the window, but that was twenty years ago. Judy shares that chair with Bob Barnes, and I gave it to

Bob because he once had his own shop on Broadway and I want people to see he's working here now."

Leonard and Jerry Haeussler, who's been with him for twenty-five years, are the shop's full-time barbers. Part-timer Fedele Grammatico has worked there, on and off, ever since the shop opened. Barnes and Anderson are the newcomers: he's been there for ten years, while she started just a year and a half ago.

Anderson says it's a perfect part-time job. The daughter of a barber, she earned her own license in 1981, but stopped working to stay home with her two small children. After a while, though, she wanted a part-time job outside the house and got one cleaning the beauty shop next door to Leonard Barbers.

"One day I was dumping trash and Will was dumping trash and we got to talking. He knew I had a barber's license and he said some day he thought he might need a part-time barber, someone to work Fridays and Saturdays. I told him to call me when that happened. Some time later Bob Barnes wanted to go part-time and Will called me. Bob works three days a week and I work two."

Anderson already has her own "waiters"—barber shorthand for the customers who say they will wait for one particular barber to be free. The ninety-three-year-old man is one of Judy's waiters.

Leonard says, "People worry that the other barbers will be hurt when a customer says, 'I'm waiting on Judy,' or 'I'm waiting on Bob or Jerry or Fedele.' But the other barbers understand. They have their own waiters."

Anderson says that Leonard is "a very understanding man. If one of my kids is sick, he knows I can't come in. My kids come first. Or I might have to go home in an emergency. Or to their school. There's no problem. Heck, I missed my very first day of work here. It was twenty below zero and I couldn't get my car started. Not a very good beginning," she laughs. "But he understood that, too."

Leonard graduated from Ypsilanti High (class of 1944) and Detroit Barber College. He worked at Floyd Graves's shop on Washington Street, at the barbershop at Willow Run Airport, and in Dearborn before opening his own shop in 1959. "I got a loan from Ann Arbor Federal and bought the land and built the shop in between Steeb Brothers' Market and a junior boot shop run by John Westfield," he recalls.

Leonard, who is divorced, has a son who lives in Brighton and three daughters, all of whom live in Truckee, California. He lives in a nearby apartment complex across Stadium Boulevard, so he's able to walk to work—though crossing Stadium on foot is often no easy task. Anderson says she's seen him put on some very fancy moves coming to work.

Anderson finishes with her customer. He pays her, she thanks him, and both she and Leonard say good-bye. Outside, the elderly man opens the passenger side door of the car for his wife, who is just leaving the beauty shop next door. It looks like an example of long-practiced timing.

The stillness of Thanksgiving

Pedestrians rule

A friend writes:

hanksgiving Day, and I'm walking to grandmother's house.

The problem with Thanksgiving is that, for the food preparer in the house (usually me), by the time dinner rolls around, any appetite has been trounced by hundreds of "tastes"—sauces (to check salt), veggies (to verify doneness), cranberry-apple mixture (to assess tart-sweet ratio).

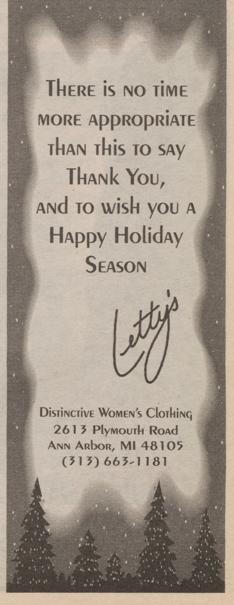
So this Thanksgiving, I've decided to walk to the in-laws—I'll burn off dinner calories in advance, and chow down guilt-free. I leave instructions for the transport of my already-prepared side dishes and bundle up. It's late afternoon and very cold. Very gray. I don't want to go. I do want to go. I don't want to go. I go—tromping down the steps of my Old West Side house and turning left onto Washington Street toward town.

Holidays are the best. Not for the presents, nor the food, but for the quiet outside. Ann Arbor seems settled, connected with the earth, content. No cars pass me. I'm the fastest thing around. By the time I hit the railroad overpass, I'm really cruising.

Behind me, the impenetrable mass of clouds has splintered, and golden sun is winging its way eastward. Everything ahead of me is shades of dismal gray, but the red brick walls of the Del Rio and Earle buildings are suddenly split with color: dull brown below, vibrating red up high.

The Washington Street parking lot is empty. In fact, there are no cars parked







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anywhere, and I have half a mind to run back home and get my car just so I can park it anywhere I choose. Inside Sweetwaters, shadowy people are putting up Christmas decorations. They're the only people I see.

I turn right onto Main Street. There are no crowds milling about in front of Mongolian Barbeque, no newspapers outside of Main Street News. I am the sole pedestrian and I rule. Left onto Liberty Street where the only sign of life is a lone white-shirted, black-tied clerk bent over the counter of Liberty Street Video, reading a book. I glance into a darkened Herb David as I pass and think about that nondescript wooden chair inside, the one John Lennon once sat in, and wonder if that chair wouldn't like to be scraping up to a fowl-laden table right about now. Do chairs care? I must be getting hungry.

Borders is closed, Orchid Lane is closed, Discount Records is closed, and I'm loving every minute of it. Amer's is open. I watch a lone student sitting in the window, eating turkey and dressing. Why is he alone in Amer's on Thanksgiving? Should I invite him to the in-laws? Nah.

I walk fast. I'm living a Twilight Zone episode. I'm the only survivor of the plague. I'm the sole scion of a parallel universe. I sprint across State Street (though, in truth, I could amble; hell, I could lie down in the street with impunity) and hit the Diag running. I can see right through to the other side. No people, no bikes, no backpacks.

With nothing to distract me, the world is a fascinating canvas filled with detail, curiosity, and wonderment. The dark, curved wall of the back of the Natural Science Building is suddenly as mysterious as a lunar landscape. I notice that someone, sometime, has bricked in a series of windows in that wall. The new bricks are a lighter color. You'd think they could match the color. Sheesh.

At the exact center of the Diag I stop. Silence. Wind. Fading light. I turn slowly, 360 degrees. No one, anywhere. I could strip to my undies and dance the Macarena—but it's too cold. I slowly approach the big brass M at the Diag's center, the M you're not supposed to step on. I carefully place my feet right at the point in the middle of the letter and look north to Rackham. And now, I notice the most extraordinary thing.

If you stand in the middle of the M and look north to Rackham, you will see a flagpole about 250 feet away. Clearly, the placement of this flagpole was important to someone in years past. It is in perfect alignment with the point of the M and perfectly bisects the architectural gem that is Rackham.

Almost.

The flagpole is just a little off. By inches. Close, but no cigar.

Does anyone know this? How can this be explained? Plate tectonics? Human error? A flagpole installer who went to Ohio State?

I'm so blown away by my discovery, I notice little else during the remainder of

my trip across the Diag. I duck under the arch and emerge onto post-apocalypse South University, where a handful of other mutant-survivors eye me suspiciously. There are people in Schlanderer's jewelry store doing something with the lights off. I hope they are the owners. Middle Earth is closed. Tower Records is closed. Village Corner is closed. I stare up at the hulking mass of U Towers, where I used to live in another lifetime, and recall Thanksgiving that year, when it snowed so hard everything shut down for days.

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I turn down South Forest to Hill. Not a soul. I turn left into the lane that cuts through the block. Here, even the wind is gone and the quiet hurts my ears. I turn again and follow the lane, peering into the backyards of professors' houses until I reach the familiar gate. A young girl is walking her white dog. Life! I reach to pet the dog but it's so excited I cannot put hand to fur. The dog prances and bounces like a seal on a leash.

"I'm sorry!" says the girl, brightly. And these seem the first words I've ever heard. They hang in the dim cool even after she and the dog have gone.

I push through the gate and smell dinner before I even hit the back steps. Dinner and family. Mmm mmm.

The shutter

Ad hoc architecture on the Old West Side

A friend writes:

hirteen years ago I took up archery, which isn't against the law. But I was renting an apartment on the Old West Side at the time, and that's where things

The setup seemed perfect. The yard was huge, and the house sat well back from the street. I set up my target in front of an abandoned shed out back to keep any random arrows from zinging off into the neighborhood. My only worry now was the shed's single window.

To protect the glass, I fashioned a crude wooden shutter out of some old boards, and hung it from a couple of nails I drove into

the upper outside corners of the window frame. It was ugly, it hung crookedly, and it didn't quite cover the whole window. But I didn't care. It did the job.

I shot a lot of arrows out there that fall. In the winter I stored the target in the shed. The next spring I moved. I never did take down the shutter.

I forgot all about that shutter until I drove by the house a couple of years later and did a double take. Against all odds, the shutter was still there, but that's not why I slammed on the brakes. When I'd lived there, the shed had been a faded barn red; the shutter, raw wood. Now both had a fresh coat of paint. I started to laugh. With one stroke of a paintbrush, my temporary quick-fix shutter had become a permanent part of the scenery. I pictured the painters, slapping up brushfuls of fresh red paint. Had they so much as paused when they got to the shutter? Had they stared at that crooked, jerry-rigged contraption and wondered, even for an instant, why it was hanging there? If so, they didn't pause long. They painted right over it.

And I realized why: because it was there. So many tenants had come and gone over the years that no one remembered a time when the shutter wasn't there. Its original purpose was long lost to everyone but me-and even I'd forgotten to take it down when I moved. Like everyone else,

I drove on, a loopy grin on my face. I'd been happy living there, and I felt like a small part of me was still there in spirit.

I'd gotten used to it.

ears went by, and the shutter stayed put. One year it got another coat of paint, which was fine with me. I knew that with every additional layer, its place was fixed a little more firmly in the collective architectural unconscious of the Old West Side.

Time passed, the seasons turned, and the shutter endured.

Then came that big ice storm last spring, the one that toppled trees and snapped power lines all over town. Even worse, it knocked my shutter askew. I drove by a few days later and saw it dangling from the left-hand nail at a precarious 45-degree angle. If one end hadn't caught on the sill, it would have come down altogether.

I knew the jig was up. The only reason my shutter had survived as long as it had was because it blended in. Now it looked so obviously out of place, no one in their right mind would ever nail it back up. After thirteen years, it was destined for the scrap heap.

Thirteen years. There are whole neighborhoods in town that haven't existed even half that long. Through sheer longevity, it seemed as though my shutter had earned the right to hang there. I was surprised by how much it bothered me. I felt like a piece of me had come tumbling down with it.

Months went by, and nobody touched it. But I knew it was only a matter of time.







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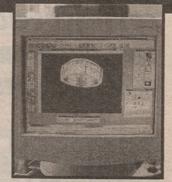
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Finally, three weeks ago, I'd had enough. I decided to go and nail the damn thing back up myself. I knew the risks. If I were caught, I'd be hard-pressed to explain why I was skulking around someone else's shed with a hammer and nails, short of mumbling something about my being a wandering carpenter, a sort of Bob Vila-meets-Johnny Appleseed who roams the land, nailing down loose boards wherever I go.

It wasn't a likely scenario.

I went in under cover of darkness. I parked my car around the corner and approached the house on foot, trying to look casual under the glare of the streetlights. Hidden in my jacket were a flashlight, nails, and the same trusty hammer I'd used the first time, thirteen years before. The yard was in shadow, the shed obscured. The street was deserted.

I'd like to think that what I did at that point was melt quietly into the darkness, cool and catlike. What I actually did was stumble noisily into the darkness, and it was closer to mooselike than anything else. Heart pounding, I hurried back to the shed, switched on the flashlight, and saw that both original nails were still in the frame. All I had to do was lift the righthand side of the shutter off the sill and nestle it back into place.

I'd never seen such a perfect fit.

I was halfway to the street when a floodlight snapped on at the rear of the house. I heard voices, and the back door banged open. Turning, I saw the shed lit up like a stage set. I could see the shutter clearly. Anyone could. How could you not see it? I tensed, waiting.

After a long moment, the door banged shut, and the light went off.

The shutter is still there. You really can't miss it, if you know where to look. But I'm not telling.

I hope it hangs there forever.

The crossbows of Christmas

Twenty-six years after the crime, a prankster confesses

Something about December—the influence of Sagittarius?-seems to prompt confessions involving archery and the law. A friend now residing in another state writes:

less me, Monsignor Bradley, for I have sinned. My high school buddies and I spent most of December 1971 celebrating the Crossbows of Christmas.

We were troublemakers-faculty brats, sons of professors in the arts and sciences, too smart for our own good. We hung our vandalism on the trappings of art movements learned in Mrs. Stringer's Humanities class. Hey, we aren't teenage punks, we're Dadaists! Today my foreign-born

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wife doesn't understand my sentimental tales of Beavis and Butthead pranks. Is it a boy thing, or a peculiarly American teen thing? Huck Finn on the Huron?

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The year before our crossbow capers, similar hell-raisers from the high school across the river had invented Billboard Banditry. They headed out on the freeway in the dead of night with saws, felling big signs for Stuckey's and other roadside attractions. In those days, most billboards in Washtenaw County were held up by six easily sawed poles. Tim-berrr . . . !

A guy we knew had bought a small hunting crossbow at Kmart, and he was willing to lend it to us if we left some Commander Cody and Bonzo Dog Band albums as collateral. Our only question was, what to bag with it?

It was a new school year and we needed a new prank. A guy we knew had bought a small hunting crossbow at Kmart, and he was willing to lend it to us if we left some Commander Cody and Bonzo Dog Band albums as collateral. Our only question was, what to bag with it?

The John Sinclair Freedom Rally was being held December 10 at Crisler Arena. Various bands and hip, radical celebrities showed their support for the Ann Arbor writer and White Panther rabble-rouser who had been harshly imprisoned for marijuana possession. So that evening we packed up the crossbow, and while listening to the rally's richly rhetorical revolutionary speeches broadcast over local FM radio, we stealthily cruised the parking lot, dodging rent-a-cops, while shooting arrows through convertible roofs and the spare tires on the backs of hippie vans.

Did the license plate number on Stump's father's car get noted in some FBI file on the event? We'll never know. Years later we realized we might have been mistaken for assassins seeking John Lennon, who was inside Crisler with Yoko Ono.

lush with delight at our new amusement, we sought bigger game. Being December, many houses were festooned with outdoor decorations-especially in middle-America nonfaculty neighborhoods such as Lansdowne. Billboard toppling was defended as an act of environmentally active highway beautification (or so the student council officers declared to Time magazine when captured). We declared our Crossbows of Christmas campaign a blow against kitsch-zapping with arrows truly excessive plastic lawn decorations offensive to our refined sense of good taste. Yeah, right.

Several December evenings, after supper and homework, were spent in artistic drive-by shootings. One house had a big illuminated choo-choo train on its roof that spelled out Season's Greetings; the arrows

we added to the sides of each railroad car suggested an Indian attack in the Old West. Several polystyrene depictions of Frosty the Snowman were felled.

In the school cafeteria, a fellow student told us that the previous Sunday unnamed hooligans were denounced from the pulpit for targeting his church's Nativity scene (a stucco camel had taken an arrow in its flank). There was respect in our schoolmate's voice.

Then one still and bone-chilling December evening we let our friend, whose nickname was (well, should have been) Squinter, try his hand. We'd spotted a bevy of plastic angels in front of a house at the edge of town, just under a picture window. Squinter's first shot-waaaayyyy off the markshould have alerted us. With his second arrow we heard the sound of breaking glass before we took off, tires squealing.

Hoping the arrow hadn't lodged itself in the gray head of the gentleman we'd seen sitting on the couch, we headed to city hall. We did what our role models, the Three Stooges, always did in these situations: we turned ourselves in at the police desk and asked for "a cheap lawyer."

"What did you do, boys?" the desk sergeant asked.

"Well, officer, we were out shooting at Christmas decorations when . . .

Silence fell upon the room. All of the cops put down their coffee cups mid-sip. One roly-poly veteran officer began giggling, then laughing, then guffawing, his sides heaving in his blue shirt like Santa Claus himself. "I shot an arrow into the air . . . ," a literate patrolman quoted, adding that they'd just received a call about a broken window. And there's no pride like that of a teenager when the cops admiringly examine his weaponry.

"Okay, boys," said one officer, "let's go out there and see if we can clear things up." The fact that we had given ourselves up worked greatly in our favor, he told us.

We entered the elderly couple's living room, hats in hand. "These fellows broke your window and want to do right," said the policeman quietly. He assured them we would cover the window temporarily and pay for the replacement. But the lady was savvy and fixed us with a steely gaze. "You boys weren't shooting at the Christmas decorations, were you?"

Before we could stammer out a reply the policeman interjected, "Oh no, ma'am, they were just, you know, doing a little, uh, target practice!" The window was covered with Kmart's finest plastic sheeting the next morning, and the funds for the new window were promptly delivered. Some of the perpetrators' parents learned about the incident (Hah! Not mine!), but none heard the whole story. Even at that age we were smart enough to know that being white upper-middle-class kids, in an era of minimal teenage crime other than dopin', helped us immensely.

The next weekend, at a folk-rock hootenanny in a National Merit Scholar's family room, someone debuted a Christmas carol with the chorus, "Flying arrows sing Noel." And as the holiday season progressed, three liberal high school longhairs might have considered putting a conservative bumper sticker on their lockers: "Support Your Local Police."

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The Athens Press on Main Street

From hand-set type to desktop publishing in five generations

In 1933, when Adam Goetz moved Athens Press to 308 North Main Street, the technology he used was not much different than it had been in Gutenberg's day. The simple brick-fronted building was essentially one big room. The printing press was in front, while in the back, Goetz stood at a desk setting lead type by hand, one letter at a time.

By then, Goetz had already been a printer for fifty years. Although he'd been a part-owner in the business since 1900 and sole proprietor since 1907, the 308 North Main location was the first plant built specifically for his company. It would not be the last. Now known as Goetzcraft, Ann Arbor's oldest job printer currently employs eighteen people at its 12,000-square-foot plant on the south side.

Born in Germany in 1866, Goetz came to the United States with his family at age five. At fifteen he began working in the print trade, no doubt learning on the job. He started at the Washtenaw Post, a German-language newspaper, then worked at the Register Publishing Company and the Inland Press before joining with three fellow workers to form Athens Press. The name came from their location, a room on the second floor of the Athens Theater on North Main.

The Athens Press took all sorts of small assignments. An early scrapbook passed down to Larry Goetz, Adam's great-grandson, includes letterhead and business cards, party invitations, political literature, and jobs for the university. Those items are still familiar to job printers today, though many of the clients memorialized in the scrapbook, such as the Germania Club and the Ann Arbor Boat Company, are no longer in existence. There's also not much demand anymore for such oncepopular items as commemorative ribbons, restaurant meal tickets (bought in advance for a certain number of meals, they were often used by single men or immigrants here without their families), and advertising blotters (a common freebie when people wrote with pens dipped in ink).

In 1906, the press had to move because the theater was being remodeled and expanded (a process that included a name change, to the Whitney). They ended up across the street and one block north, in a now-gone storefront at 208 North Main.

Larry Goetz was told by his great-aunt Hermina, that her father was often razzed by his partners for working too hard and earning all of the money. Athens Press's original account book bears out her story. There are countless references to Goetz getting extra pay for working nights or on Sundays. Not surprisingly, soon after the move, Goetz was able to buy out his two remaining partners, Clyde Kerr and Alfred Schairer. Both men opened their own printing companies; Schairer teamed up with Oswald Mayer to form Mayer-Schairer, still active today as an office supply store (they got out of printing in the 1950s).

dam and Pauline Goetz's children, Herbert and Hermina, helped in the shop from an early age, pulling their red metal wagon down Main to make deliveries. Adam was happiest working in the back setting type, so when Herbert got old enough to work full-time, he took over the business end, talking to customers and doing the books.

After 1938 the shop sent out big typesetting jobs to Ben Burkhart, who had one of the city's only Linotype machines in his shop on the other side of the alley. The Linotype, named for its ability to set a full line of type at a time, was very expensive and hard to operate, but Burkhart had taught himself to use it by fooling around with one while a student at Ann Arbor High. Much like computer companies do today, in the 1920s, manufacturers would sell typesetting machines to schools at very reasonable prices so that students could learn how to operate them. Burkhart, who is still in business today, thinks he is now the last working Linotype operator in the Midwest.

Herbert Goetz was interested in modernizing the business, but his dad refused to retire. As he always had, Adam Goetz continued to set type by hand, chewing tobacco as he worked (he sent his grandson, John, to buy it for him at the cigar store on Huron). Finally, in 1943, Herbert threatened to enlist in the army unless his dad let him buy the business. It was an empty threat (Herbert had a health condition that made him ineligible), but his father finally agreed to sell. Adam Goetz never retired, however, continuing to work until two months before he died at age seventy-seven. According to his obituary, he had been the oldest living member of the typographical union, which he'd joined in 1885.

In 1944 Herbert Goetz changed the name of the Athens Press to Goetz-craft, since by then it had been thirty-six years since the business had been in the Athens Theater. Five years later he built a new, larger building across the street, at 307 North Main, adding new machinery and doubling the staff to about ten people. While his father never changed his way of working, Herbert kept up with the evolving industry. In the 1950s, the company bought its own Linotype machine





The Athens Press was named for its original location upstairs in the Athens Theater. (Left) When the theater was remodeled in 1906, the press moved to 208 N. Main St. (Top) In 1933 the press finally got a building of its own at 308 N. Main (today Eureka Cleaners).

and, when they came out, photo offset printing presses.

Like his father and grandfather, John Goetz started working at the press at a young age, coming in after school when he was a student at Slauson Junior High. He started out sweeping, feeding hand-fed presses, and baling. As soon as he got his driver's license he was sent on deliveries, and he came to work full-time when he graduated from high school.

Since his dad had a firm control on the business end, John concentrated more on the machinery, learning how to run and repair the presses, bindery, and—especially challenging—the Linotype. Herbert retired more gracefully than his father had, moving to Florida in 1962, and leaving John in charge. A workaholic like the rest of the family, Herbert opened a liquor store there, where he worked the rest of his life.

John's son Larry, like the previous three generations of Goetz men, started working at a young age, riding his bike to the shop after school to help out. Although he studied printing at Ferris, he says he really learned on the job. He joined the company full-time in 1971, in time for the next printing revolution: computer typesetting. His father, guessing this was the way to go, invited his foreman and wife to dinner, and over a good meal that his wife, Evelyn, had cooked, suggested that Evelyn and the foreman's wife work together to find out whether photo composition (a then-new technique for setting type on film) could replace the Linotype. "It drove us nuts, but

we mastered it," Evelyn recalls. Goetzcraft was the first printer in Ann Arbor to offer the new technology.

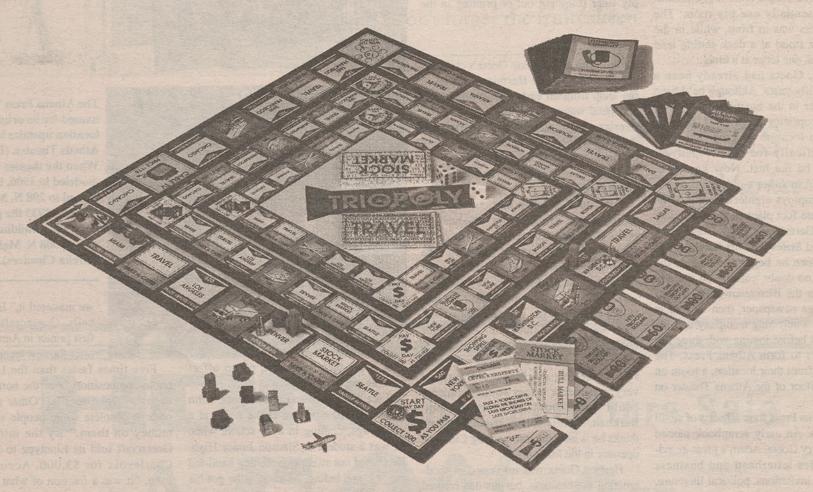
Five times faster than the Linotype, photo composition "was the hottest thing in town," John recalls. "Other machines became obsolete while people still owed money on them." By the mid-1980s, Goetzcraft sold its Linotype to a man in Charlevoix for \$3,000. According to John, "It was a fraction of what we paid, but we were lucky to get that." By then, Goetzcraft was already moving into desktop publishing.

Since 1979, Goetzcraft has been located in the Ann Arbor Industrial Park at 975 Phoenix Drive. They do fancier work than Adam Goetz could have ever imagined: brochures, catalogs, and posters, printed in an array of colors. But one thing hasn't changed. The family continues to make up about half of the workforce. Larry Goetz, now president, is assisted either full- or part-time by ten family members: his father and mother, John and Evelyn Goetz; his wife, Paulette; his sisters, Julie Trevino and Lee Ann Haynes; his brothers-in-law, Jeff Haynes and Jeff Swanson; and his three children, Britton, Bryan, and Brooke.

The original plant that Adam Goetz built at 308 North Main became a drycleaning business after Goetzcraft left. Eureka Cleaners is now owned by Steve Hur, who also owns College Cleaners on North University. Like Adam Goetz, Steve Hur is an immigrant, and his craft, too, runs in the family: Hur bought the business from his sister, who originally had bought it from their brother.

-Grace Shackman

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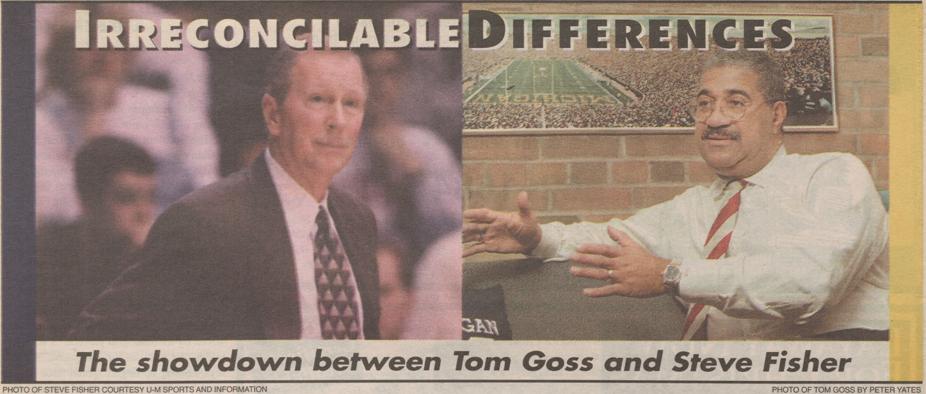
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STEVE FISHER COURTESY U-M SPORTS AND INFORMATION

by Ami Walsh & John Hilton research assistance by Jon Hall

n the afternoon of October 10, basketball coach Steve Fisher walked into Tom Goss's office. All summer Fisher had been waiting for the results of an investigation into charges of NCAA violations in his program. The report had been released the day before, and as far as Fisher could tell, it was just the vindication he'd been hoping for. Yet it didn't seem to have impressed the one man who mattered most: Goss, the U-M's new athletic director.

Over Fisher's protests, Goss had released the report to the media before the coach even had a chance to read it. And instead of focusing on the fact that no significant violations had been documented, the press was implying that Fisher had lied to investigators, and relaying comments by Goss and U-M president Lee Bollinger that they were "troubled" by the report.

Neither Goss nor Fisher will describe the specifics of what occurred at that October meeting. But all indications are that Goss challenged the way Fisher had run the basketball program and demanded that the coach promise to make major changes. Fisher, a coach at the U-M for sixteen years, defended his program and his players, and was fired.

Goss's decision drew applause from Fisher critics, who saw it as a sign that the new AD possessed the sort of strong discipline they believed Fisher lacked. But even Goss supporters had to admit the timing was problematic. His unsuccessful attempt to hire a new head coach by the opening of the collegiate basketball season was widely criticized. A week after the season started, Goss gave up and named U-M assistant Brian Ellerbe as in-

The ugly fashion in which the events of October unfolded is puzzling. The reputation of a successful, highly respected coach was sullied, the athletic director has created ill will among basketball coaches around the country, and the Wolverines are heading into this season without an experienced Division I-A coach on the floor.

This is hardly the picture of proud Michigan tradition. Even as the basketball team struggles through its early season, many questions remain unanswered, including the most obvious-why was Steve Fisher fired?

'd rather not get into the details," Tom Goss says. A defensive lineman on the U-M football team thirty years ago, he answers questions with deliberate decisiveness. Previously a businessman in California, he moved into the AD's glass-walled office overlooking the corner of State and Hoover in early September.

"One of the commitments I made was not to evaluate Steve in [the] paper or in public, even in private with people," Goss continues. But he does say that at their final meeting, "I asked some very specific questions. I wanted some responses that would make me feel comfortable with how [Fisher] would react to certain situations . . . and I never got comfortable with the fact it would be any different down the

What did the new AD ask the veteran coach to do differently? Goss doesn't answer directly but turns the conversation to his own values and priorities. At Michigan, he says, "coaches are required to recruit kids of character." The implication is that Fisher did not.

The character issue dates back five years, to the second year that the Fab Five—Chris Webber, Jimmy King, Juwan Howard, Jalen Rose, and Ray Jacksonplayed for Michigan. It was then that the public perception of Fisher's famous recruits changed, in the words of USA Today, from a freshman "team of boundless joy and effervescence" to a group of 'smug, haughty, paranoid" sophomores. A year earlier, fans were thrilled just to see an all-freshman team playing in the NCAA championship game. But now expectations were higher, and the Fab Five's shaved heads, baggy shorts, and street swagger invited little sympathy when Michigan lost the 1993 NCAA final on Webber's infamous time-out error.

Webber left that spring to join the NBA, and Howard and Rose followed a glect, of being too nice a guy," he says. "Neither is true. I felt I had complete control of my kids on the floor-they were confident and comfortable."

People who imagine a direct link between his tolerance of the Fab Five's baggy shorts and Chris Webber's mental mistake in the NCAA championship game, says Fisher, are reading way too much into a simple error. "We weren't the first team to have a player call a time-out when he didn't have one," he says. "Nor were we the last." From his point of view, he adds,

"I got accused of benign neglect, of being too nice a guy," Fisher says. "Neither is true. I felt I had complete control of my kids on the floor-they were confident and comfortable."

year later. After compiling the best tournament record in the nation between 1992 and 1994, the Wolverines haven't won an NCAA tournament game since.

Fisher suspects the post-Fab Five letdown may have made him seem more expendable-even though his team won the National Invitation Tournament last season. Says Fisher, "There's no question in my mind that if the championship we won last spring had been the NCAA championship, as opposed to the NIT, I would still be coach. I do think that winning matters."

"I can say that I adamantly disagree," Goss replies when told of Fisher's remark. "I never considered that as one of the factors." According to Goss, "Steve Fisher basically did not offer all the things that I felt this program needed for the future."

> eated at a desk in a small office in his home in Ives Woods, Steve Fisher answers questions calmly and directly. "I got accused of benign ne

the players' appearance was never a disciplinary issue. "It didn't bother me that five guys shaved their heads," he says. On the other hand, had he realized that the long pro-style shorts would arouse such "fervor" in the media, Fisher says, he probably would have "cut them up another inch."

As for those who call the Fab Five's record disappointing, says Fisher, "You could spin it right back to say they won more games in a two-year span than any team in the history of the University of Michigan. As five freshmen, the first time ever, they played for the national championship. As five sophomores, they won a school-record thirty-one games-the most in the history of the university."

Fisher's current round of woes began in the early morning hours of February 17, 1996. Maurice Taylor was driving four teammates and a recruit home from a party in Detroit when his Ford Explorer left the road and rolled over. Taylor said he'd fallen asleep at the wheel, and no one was seriously hurt. But because the group had traveled more than thirty miles from Ann



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IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES

- continued -

Arbor, the U-M reported itself for having violated an NCAA rule limiting the distance from campus that recruits can travel during official visits.

The accident reignited talk that Fisher couldn't control his team. Fisher says that he did impose discipline after the incident (all players involved were given in-house suspensions, including an 11 p.m. curfew), but chose not to publicize the details. "I didn't think those were things that everybody in America had to be made aware of," he says.

When journalists questioned how a U-M undergrad came to be driving a vehicle worth over \$30,000, the NCAA asked the university to investigate all of the vehicles driven by its basketball players. "I've got a folder that thick in the basement," Fisher says, holding up fingers spread three inches apart, "on our investigation of Maurice's car. Basically, he and his family were stripsearched—they opened their bank records to the university. He justified he could have it."

Then, a month after that report came out, Fisher's assistant, Brian Dutcher, spotted a familiar face in the parking lot. It was Ed Martin, a retired Ford electrician, and in Fisher's words, a "basketball junkie" who'd been hanging around prep basketball in Detroit for decades. According to Fisher, when Dutcher asked Martin why he was in town, Martin told him he was apartment-hunting for a couple of players. When Fisher called in from vacation, Dutcher relayed the news. Fisher then called Martin, who admitted he had placed a deposit on an apartment for Louis Bullock and Robert Traylor.

Fisher says he chastised Martin, ordered him to take the deposit back, and told the players to find their own place. Because Fisher figured he'd headed off the problem, he didn't mention the incident to then-AD Joe Roberson. It wasn't until September that Roberson heard Martin's name—from NCAA investigators following up on a tip that Martin was giving improper benefits to U-M players. After Fisher told him of Martin's attempt to lease the apartment, Roberson launched a joint investigation by Michigan and Big Ten officials.

Stories in the Detroit newspapers reported that Martin courted players with everything from clothing to cash. But in a report issued this past March, the investigators documented only three minor violations: Martin had been present during a recruiting visit Fisher made in Detroit, had given Traylor a birthday cake, and had twice given Traylor's grandmother a ride to U-M games. Because the investigators concluded that Martin was acting on behalf of the university, however, his actions were reported as secondary NCAA violations.

After the report was issued, Roberson and Bollinger announced their unequivocal support for Fisher. But when the papers published new allegations about Martin's largesse, the president hired Bond, Schoeneck, & King, a Kansas law firm with close ties to the NCAA, to conduct yet an-

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other investigation. That assignment gained urgency in May, when the Detroit Free Press published the most sensational Martin story yet: a claim that he had given as much as \$100,000 to Webber and Taylor. (The players denied the allegation.)

Fisher was skeptical. "To me, [Martin] seemed like a nice person," he says. "Very much a fanatical sports guy, but not any different than many you would find in any gymnasium." Fisher believes that until the apartment fiasco, Martin hadn't even realized that his gifts might cause anyone problems. "I personally don't believe he did many of the things he was accused of," Fisher adds. He dismisses the alleged \$100,000 payments out of hand.

So as investigators tore apart his program, Fisher remained confident that the facts would vindicate him. The tragic irony is that the exhaustive report that emerged after seven months did in fact exonerate him on the central charge of NCAA violations—yet he lost his job any-

In their review of department records and more than fifty interviews, the law firm's investigators didn't confirm a single new violation. It was more a finding of "not guilty" than "innocent," since the anonymous sources, and several former players, refused to be interviewed. Crucially, however, the investigators disagreed with the previous report's finding that Martin functioned as a U-M representative. And if Martin was not acting on behalf of the U-M, nothing he did violated

Yet the day after the report was released, Fisher was fired. He's still trying to figure out why. Since Goss has said that the report came into his office late in the afternoon before it was released, Fisher wonders if he even had time to read it.

niversity administrators actually had a good idea of what was going to be in the report well before the final version arrived. According to vice-president for university relations, Walt Harrison, Bollinger began to see section drafts by the end of August. At Goss's initiative, Harrison says, the AD and the president discussed the possibility that Fisher might be fired at the beginning of October, more than a week before the final report arrived.

Both Bollinger and Goss have said that, despite the timing, Fisher's firing was not based on the report's findings. Yet Bollinger issued a statement saying that there were "parts of the report" that troubled him. Harrison says that Bollinger has never clarified for him what parts of the report he was speaking of. However, both Goss and Harrison specifically rule out the most obvious choice: the tangled issue of Martin's complimentary tickets.

During the Fab Five era, Martin was "comped" into Michigan games more than thirty times. In some cases, forensics experts concluded, Fisher used the initials of then-assistant coach Perry Watson to authorize the free tickets. Watson denied requesting the tickets, and Fisher at first denied writing Watson's initials.

It was only after the report was published, Fisher says, that he was able to look at the full comp sheets-at which point he realized that he had initialed not only for Watson, but for half a dozen other people as well, to fill in incomplete logs. He points out that he also signed comps for Martin with his own initials, and that from the NCAA's point of view, it made no difference at all whether the request came from the head coach or an assistant.

Even though the incident apparently wasn't a factor in his firing, it pains Fisher that an obscure departmental record has caused people to question the reputation for integrity that he's built up over a lifetime of coaching. He's equally troubled to read Goss's comments about the need to recruit "players of character," which he sees as a slap at the kids he recruited and the way he coached them.

Goss, says Fisher, "didn't know me, he didn't know the kids in our program. And I'm not going to apologize. I think it would be hypocritical of anyone to try to apologize for the kids we've had in this basketball program, because it's not true. We had great kids in this program.

"I feel I've represented Michigan for sixteen years in a fashion and a manner of which I can be proud."

om Goss and Steve Fisher both have a strong sense of right and wrong. Neither is inclined to self-doubt. Fisher clearly feels that he ran his program to the highest ethical standards. Goss apparently concluded otherwiseand it's easy to imagine how Fisher would have reacted if the AD questioned his character. In the end, the very similarities between the two men may have led to irreconcilable differences.

Now the burden is on Goss to demonstrate that he can do better. In the present environment, that's not going to be easy. "Nationally, the realities of big-time intercollegiate athletics are increasingly at odds with the traditional ethos of serious-minded universities," U-M regent Phil Power notes in a recent analysis. "The infestation of big money from TV both distorts the priorities and judgements in athletic departments and conveys the impression that major intercollegiate sports are little more than fodder for the entertainment industry.

"Owners of professional sports teams tend to regard college athletics as unpaid minor league training programs," Power continues. "It's an attitude that rubs off onto athletes who enter universities as recruits with no intention of staying long enough to get a degree."

Nonetheless, Goss maintains, it's possible to compete without the kind of incidents that Michigan has recently seen. "You can get the great athlete," the AD contends. "You have to work a little harder, but he's out there. I see Duke winning with those types of kids. I see Carolina

But Goss may be the victim of wishful thinking. While teams at Duke and the Uni-

Q: What do you give a Michigan fan who has everything?



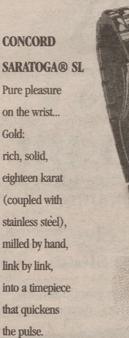
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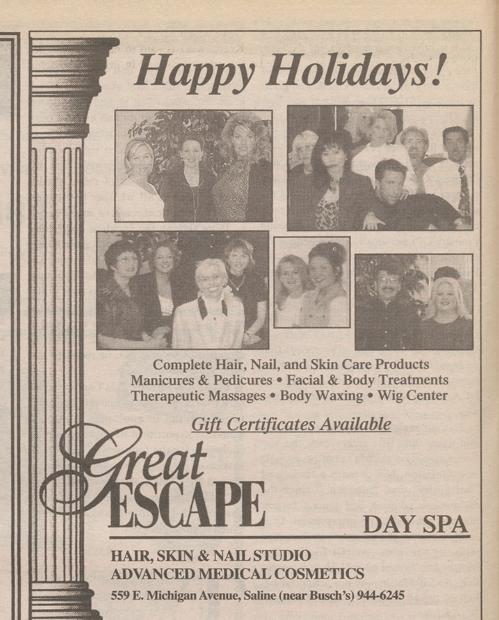


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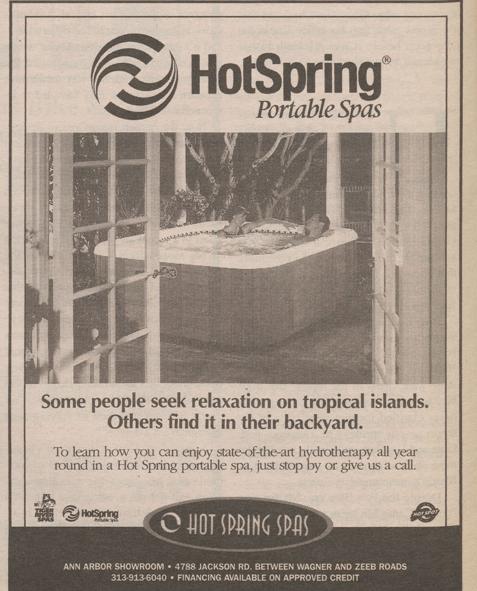
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versity of North Carolina may project a more tightly managed image, off the court it's not clear that they're any less troubled than Michigan. This year, Duke had to suspend a basketball player for plagiarism, while UNC recently was fined by the NCAA after a player (ironically, a Michigan transfer) accepted a free trip to Las Vegas.

When Goss went looking for a new coach in October, he got his own first lesson in how easy it is to be embarrassed in big-time sports. Immediately after Fisher's firing, it was rumored that Goss wanted to hire Berkeley coach Ben Braun. But Goss had no sooner requested permission for an interview, than Berkeley sewed up Braun with a lucrative contract extension.

Goss calls his subsequent search for a new head coach "a great win for Michigan" because "I learned more about the five best programs in the country [whose coaches advised him on the search] than anyone will know." But Sports Illustrated wrote that he "threw several programs into turmoil by interviewing, or trying to interview, coaches already under contract." In The Sporting News, Mike De-Courcy wrote a contemptuous column titled "Michigan's actions fall short of its principles." And the Detroit News quoted an interview between Dick Vitale and

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, in which Krzyzewski is said to have "questioned the ethics involved in pursuing coaches with practice started."

Goss shrugs off the criticisms. He says that the coaches who advised him, including Krzyzewski, only belatedly warned him that it might be unethical to try to hire a coach when he did. But he's put the search on the shelf for now, saying he expects to start again next spring, around tournament time.

He'll be looking, he says, for a coach who reflects Michigan's core values. "The reason we are all here is for the studentathlete-to help them achieve academically, athletically, and socially."

Steve Fisher has no quarrel with those values. In fact, he points out, he helped to develop them under former AD Joe Roberson several years ago. He'll keep them in mind next spring as he goes out to look for a job.

Tom Goss will be hiring about the same time. Given different circumstances, Fisher says, he thinks he'd be a good candidate for Goss's vacancy. "If you're looking to hire someone based on the core values [Tom Goss] expounded on," he says, "you'd be hiring Steve Fisher."

A season in limbo

The Wolverines have not had an NCAA tournament victory since 1994, and this year's team is unlikely to break the disappointing streak. The best they can realistically hope for is a repeat of last year's consolation prize—another National Invitation Tournament title.

Robert Traylor.

The five returnees from that NIT championship team are led by two juniors who last year shared the team's Most Valuable Player honors, Robert "Tractor" Traylor and Louis Bullock. In his freshman season, Traylor garnered much interest because of his immense frame (6' 8", 300 lbs.); last season, he demanded attention because of his dominant play on the court, including one thunderous dunk that shattered the backboard at Crisler Arena. In the postseason, he led the team in both points and rebounds and was named the NIT's MVP.

Bullock teams with Traylor to form one of the nation's best inside-outside combinations. Last season, Bullock led Michigan in scoring while becoming one of the nation's best outside shooters, hitting 47 percent of his shots from three-point range. He also broke Glen Rice's single-season school record by sinking 101 three-pointers, and led the Big Ten in free-throw percentage (89.3).

Three seniors, Travis Conlan, Maceo Baston, and Jerod Ward, complete Michigan's starting lineup. Conlan is the team's starting point guard and cocaptain, but a wrist fracture during the team's opening exhibition game has kept him on the sidelines (he's expected to return this month). Junior transfer Robbie Reid has filled in at point guard. Power forward Baston is a tremendous shot blocker and excellent rebounder, but he needs to develop the ability to score from mid-range. Small forward Ward has one last season to try to live up to his high school press clippings. A starter for most of last season, Ward shot only 35 percent from the field and was benched at the season's end. Though he displays occasional glimpses of greatness, his game lacks focus and consistency. Freshman Brandon Smith will challenge Ward for his starting position.

In a show of solidarity with fired coach Steve Fisher, the players have dedicated this season to him. "We'll remember all of this-the press conference, the meeting with Mr. Goss. Everything," says Conlan. "There's a fire that's burning about what happened, and we will use that. We'll be playing for Fish." But based on the Wolverines' performances so far, including an opening season loss to an inferior Western Michigan team, the players haven't yet found a way to translate the loss of their coach into inspirational play.

-Steve Rubin

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BENEATH THE CITY

On the job with the workers who keep Ann **Arbor's water** and sewage flowing.

by John Lofy

On the last Wednesday of August, a construction crew was digging an underground pipeline for electrical cables. Using a sort of huge mechanical worm called a borer, they tunneled into the earth beneath the intersection of Hill and State streets, near the U-M campus. The crew's estimates predicted that the borer's path would elude the net of hazards underneath the busy streets-electrical cables, gas mains, sewer lines-but they were off by two or three inches. The borer chopped into a twelve-inch

Water gushed from the pipe with such force that it raised the Hill Street pavement six inches, then tore a ten-foot-long gash in the curbside soil along State Street. It erupted into the intersection laden with dirt, a brown flood that overflowed the gutters and sloshed onto the sidewalk in front of the street's fast-food restaurants. On its way downhill through the intersection of State and Packard, water picked up speed, frothing as it spilled into traffic, moving too fast for the storm sewers to drain it away.

Driving on Packard, I find myself up to my muffler in water and stop to gawk. A tan Ford pickup pulls up beside me. Inside are two foremen from the city's Water Utilities Department, Don Lucas and John Bellows.

By coincidence, I had met Lucas and Bellows just a couple of hours earlier, as I began my research for this article. Both are longtime veterans of the department's Field Services office, responsible for maintaining the pipes, valves, and hydrants of the city's sewer and water systems. They step out of their truck, and as the construction crew gathers around them to explain what happened, they peer at the chaos with dry expressions, the way mechanics might observe a misfiring engine.

After diagnosing the problem, they open their truck's tailgate and spread out a map of the water distribution system. Their first task is to stop the leak. The map identifies seven other pipes that feed into the damaged one. They'll have to shut all of them down, which means that water to several university buildings, including the Michigan Union and the South Quad dormitory, will

be cut off.

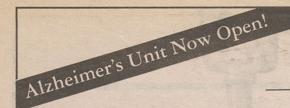
Field Services work crews begin to arrive in trucks of their own. In a quiet voice, Bellows directs them to valves as far as four blocks away. Bellows has been around for thirty years-longer than the department itself as constituted-and has become its resident wise old uncle, the man who can describe what it was like before safety regulations and technology, when cleaning the sewers was a matter of going down a manhole with a bucket and shovel.

Lucas is a thick man with a shy and rumpled grin. When I first met him, the other department foremen said they'd elected him official spokesperson. Lucas had smiled, leaned back in his chair, and said almost nothing for two hours. But now when he sees me, he speaks: "See what we mean about getting thrown off our schedule by emergencies?"

his morning, Lucas, Bellows, and I had talked about more mundane things. The conversation mainly revolved around preventive maintenance. The foremen explained that while most cities only make repairs when sewers get blocked or when pipes decay or break, Ann Arbor works proactively to prevent such problems.

> Bellows and Denny Zink, the water distribution foremen, ensure that pipe valves are in good working order and that the city's 3,000 fire hy-

> > Foreman Rill Alber checks a culvert.



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drants are working, accessible, and painted. Meanwhile, sanitary sewers are cleaned on a regular rotation: the east side of town one year, the west side the next, with some "problem" areas (those susceptible to tree-root infiltration) done more frequently. Storm sewer cleaning, under Lucas, works on a five-year rotation, with 20 percent of the system cleared each year.

All of those routines are pushed aside in emergencies. Construction crews bust pipes open. The cold weather snaps waterlines. And there are other "emergencies" as well. A couple of years ago, maintenance crews responded to several calls about missing manhole covers; their best guess was that the covers had been lifted by kids in search of the sewer-dwelling Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. And broods of ducklings, following their mothers, often walk across storm sewer grates and fall in, one right after the other. People call for help when they see the distressed mother duck quacking at the grate, and Don Lucas-aka "Donnie's Duck Retrieval Service"-goes out to free the ducklings.

These situations, along with the pressures of maintaining a system that's expanding as fast as the city, mean that the Field Services schedule is seldom entirely routine. "I plan my day the night before, but it always changes," says Zink, the bearded ex-farmer who is the youngest of the foremen. "Things break, I've got to move things around."

oday, as the flood splashes across the intersection, I witness what happens when things break. Following Bellows's directions, the Field Services crews locate the seven underground valves and begin screwing them shut with giant two-man corkscrews. As each valve closes, the water flow subsides a little more. But now the construction crew fires up gas-powered pumps to drain their flooded pit, sending fresh sheets of water down

Police detour traffic. Pedestrians slosh unhappily through the intersection. So much dirt has been carried away from beneath one of the traffic lights that the city's crews worry the pole might loosen itself like a bad tooth and crash into the intersection. They bring in a crane to hold

City and university officials amble about, muttering into cell phones. Beneath the howling static of the water pumps, a murmur of implied blame drifts like a distant radio newscast: "The city didn't the university should have ... " A nervous representative from the Michigan Union keeps asking when they'll get their water back. But others are counting their blessings: it's almost move-in day at the dorms. Had the accident occurred a few days later, thousands of new students and their parents would have arrived at South Quad to find its toilets, sinks, and drinking fountains completely dry.

It takes the Field Services crew three hours to shut off the valves, jackhammer





A Vactor truck scours a sewer. (L. to r.) Steve Selvig, Bill Alber, and Walt Douglas.

A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO,

maintenance crews responded

to several calls about missing

manhole covers; their best

guess was that the covers had

been lifted by kids in search of

the sewer-dwelling

Teenage Mutant

Ninja Turtles.

reach the broken main. Though the water is no longer gushing, the science of valveclosing is apparently imprecise—a weak but steady flow continues to

spill into the hole. Two Field Services workers. Bob Downer and Jim Hatchard, stand in the pit in a kneedeep slurry of wet sand. They are soaking wet. splattered with mud, and digging relentlessly while a backhoe scoops watery bites of sand from

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the hole, swinging its arm past their heads. Craig Hupy, the superintendent of Field Services, stands at the edge of the hole watching the work. A round-faced, genial man with a nasal voice reminiscent of Newt Gingrich's, Hupy gestures at his crew with admiration. "The thing to remember about these guys," he says, "is they do this all year-round. Imagine getting into that water in the middle of winter. Sometimes they do work where the detail is such that they can't even wear gloves."

Downer and Hatchard finally expose an iron pipe twelve inches in diameter and black as a skillet. The borer, which looks identical to the pipe, has been left in place after the accident. Running into the pipe at a 90-degree angle, it looks at first like just another water main. But where the two meet, the pipe has been broken as if it were glass. A gaping, three-foot-long crack is bleeding water. There is no way to patch it.

Instead, cranking a sort of industrialsized can opener, the two men cut the broken section out of the pipe. With the help of a backhoe and chain, a new length of pipe is lowered into the gap. To secure it in place, the men slip circular repair clamps onto the pipe-like slipping rings onto fingers—one on each side of the two cuts. They run bolts through the clamps and tighten them, so that the rings press up against each other. As Downer and Hatchard squeeze the seams shut, water jets from the clamps, drenching the men

through the street, and dig down ten feet to until they are able to finish clamping them down. Hupy gives me a significant look. "Think if it was twenty below," he says. "They'd still be out here doing this."

Once the pipe is sealed, the underground valves are reopened and the pit is filled back in.

Eventually, the entire intersection will have to be rebuilt because its foundation has been so disrupted. But the next morning, the only indication of the previous afternoon's furious work is a square outline on the street where new asphalt has been lain.

or some time I had been wondering what lay beneath the city streets. I'd envisioned a network of dripping cavernous sewers big enough to hide fugitives, troglodytes, and herds of rats. I wanted to explore it. I would discover that the truth, as usual, was less fantastic than I'd imagined, but also more interesting.

In 1890, the first water mains in Ann Arbor were hooked up to fifty homes and businesses. Those first fifty lines, and many later ones, were made of wood. Logs were hollowed out and reinforced with metal bands, like barrels. Some of those old decaying pipes are still underground, left in place beside the copper and iron lines that made them obsolete. From those fifty wooden mains, the Ann Arbor distribution network has grown to include 425 miles of pipe funneling as much as 30 million gallons of water a day to 25,000 homes, apartment complexes, and businesses. The sewers, both sanitary and storm lines, snake 500 miles beneath the city, carrying 18 million gallons a day through the Waste Water Treatment Plant on Dixboro Road.

Hupy estimates that within the city's freeway ring alone, the water and sanitary networks are expanding at a rate of about a mile a year. The pipes are also snaking beyond the city limits because several neigh-

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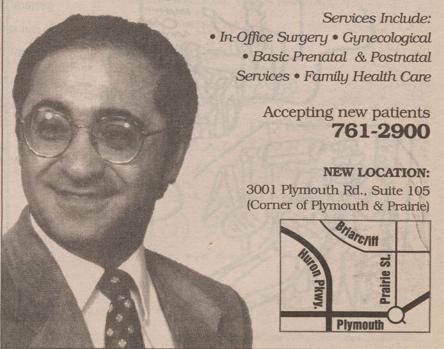
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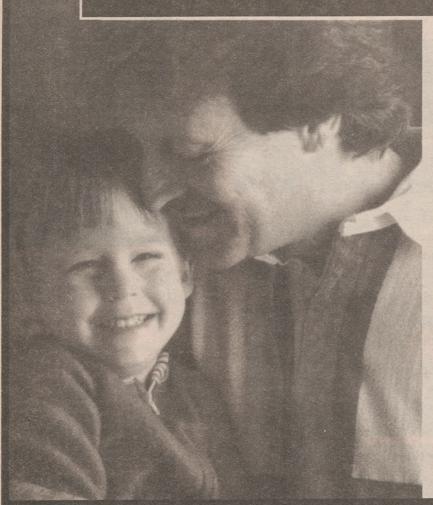
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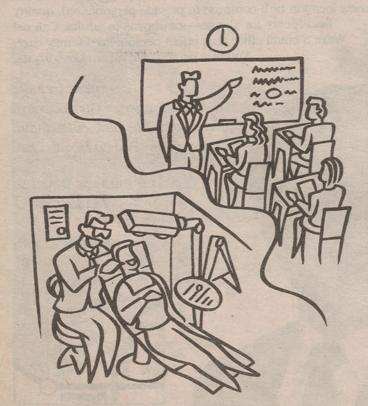
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BENEATH THE CITY

boring townships have contracted to use Ann Arbor's water and sewer systems.

But as for the underground city I'd imagined, there's no such thing. The Field Services foremen explain that although raccoons live in some storm lines, there are no rats, much less alligators, in the sanitary sewers. Most sewer pipes are small, just eight or twelve inches in diameter, and though a few stand five feet high, it's rare that anyone enters them. According to Hupy, the black rivers that run through them can turn into dangerous white-water floods on days of heavy use, such as foot-

THE BLACK RIVERS
that run through the
sewers can turn into
dangerous white-water
floods on days of
heavy use, such as
football Saturdays.

ball Saturdays. Even during low-flow periods, the atmosphere can become toxic with carbon dioxide or other gases.

It used to be that maintaining the system was a relatively crude affair involving shovels, buckets, and "flush tanks," which could cause water to rush through a sewer line, theoretically clearing it of debris. Now the Field Services maintenance crews rely on a trio of muscular, high-tech gadgets: jetters, or high-pressure hoses; rodders, which are like giant plumber's snakes; and a remote-control camera, which can drive into a pipe and videotape it.

Even with these tools, the crews are hard-pressed to keep up with the city's growing size and population. "I'm struggling to stay on my [maintenance] schedule right now," says Bill Alber, the burly, white-haired foreman of the sanitary sewers. Ten years ago, he says, "I was about eighteen months ahead of schedule. Now I'm running about eighteen months behind."

What's more, chimes in Hupy, the city has accelerated its street resurfacing, which means that the pipes beneath the repaired streets have to be checked. "The goal," he explains, "is not to have that street resurfaced and then have to go back and cut it because there's something that's not up to snuff." So pipes made of unreliable galvanized steel are replaced by iron lines, and others are checked for damage or obstructions.

So far, Alber concludes, the pressure of new construction and increased road maintenance "hasn't shown up in any problems, but we're struggling. The system that they're calling for us to do is increasing a little more than we can keep up with."

Despite the gripes, the struggles seem to be the part of the job the foremen find most interesting. They almost welcome the problems as puzzles to be solved. John Bellows has invented tools that let him replace water mains without tearing up streets or disrupting traffic. And Denny Zink claims, "I like the challenge. It's better than farming."

And so, intrigued by the work-and still hoping to catch a glimpse of some sewer lines, no matter how small-I return to the Field Services office on a few more mornings so I can follow the crews around.

he Field Services building on South Industrial is almost invisible from the street, dwarfed by its large parking lot and garage, and the huge blue water tank that looms behind it. Though plenty of important information is housed here (index cards record the pipe-repair histories of every address in the city, and there are construction plans for all of the sewer lines), the building is really a locus for work that goes on elsewhere. Crews gather before dawn in a back room for coffee and announcements, then head out for the streets

The foremen-Bellows, Lucas, Zink, and Alber-are all big men. Collectively, they're like a squad of round-prowed tugboats: tough, good-natured, and clamorous. For my amusement, they trade stories about workers finding sewer debris: bowling balls, basketballs, car keys, and a wellpreserved 1913 license plate.

But I will be starting from the other end: Hupy has agreed to give me a tour of the water distribution system. We begin at Barton Pond on the Huron River, which provides 90 percent of the city's water (the rest is drawn from wells).

At the bottom of the pond, two pipes suck water into a pumping station below Barton Dam. The pumps-whose squat bulky curves and pale green color give them the look of large late-1940s kitchen appliances-drive the water uphill to the Water Treatment Plant on Sunset Road. The plant covers several acres near Forsythe Middle School at one of the highest points in the city.

The treatment plant itself is an unintentional museum of Ann Arbor's growth. The oldest part of the complex, constructed in 1938, consists of a blond brick tower, a pair of enormous settling ponds, and an extraordinary "filter gallery" that on the inside looks like a Depression-era train station: a long hall with windows high above the floor. Flow controls for the filtering pools are mounted on elegant marble consoles with brass fittings. The floor is beautifully tiled. An ancient yellow bicycle, used for traversing the hall's length, leans against a wall. Both the tower and filter gallery sport stately Art Deco exteriors.

As new additions have been built, most of them have kept the Art Deco exteriorthough attached to the blond tower is an enormous blank-faced concrete slab that would have driven the original architect to despair. The filter gallery's ornate interior has been abandoned in favor of drab cinder block and tile, and control panels are no longer marble but metal or plastic computer consoles. All that remains of the original reception area is a charming lapisblue tile drinking fountain, hidden against the back wall of an employee lounge. The new administrative offices are cool suburban, cubicled and carpeted. A framed newspaper article on the wall boasts that Ann Arbor's water was voted best-tasting in the state last year by the American Water Works Association.

Winning that prize with water drawn from the Huron River took a lot of expensive technology. In the last few years, the plant has undergone a \$15 million renovation. Overseeing the treatment process is a brand new control center, a large room banked with rows of computers that is staffed twenty-four hours a day. From there, any part of the system can be monitored, from in-plant processes to the volume in the city's water towers. Chemists and technicians working in an expansive new laboratory continually test the water for bacteria, algae, acidity, lead and copper, toxic chemicals, and fluoride. And there's a \$7.5 million state-of-the-art disinfection system: in a concrete building spiderwebbed with pipes, ozone is created inside electrified steel tanks that look like deep-sea bathyscaphes.

Water that passes through this system seems less like it's been restored to some original state of purity than an entirely new entity, a manufactured high-tech concoction. First quicklime is added in a boiling solution the color of milk; it softens the river water and raises its pH level, improving its taste and "inactivating" some microbes. Then a sticky polymer resin is squirted in, which makes the lime settle out. From there, the water enters a labyrinth of enormous settling ponds and treatment tanks that sprawls across several acres. Chlorine and anhydrous ammonia disinfect the water, then ozone cleans it even further. All this disinfection raises the water's acidity, so carbon dioxide bubbles restore its tasty alkalinity. Fluoride is then injected for drinkers' dental health. And finally the water drains through the Art Deco gallery's carbon and sand filters, and in massive pipes is carried into the city.

Ann Arbor is divided into five water pressure districts. At lower elevations (all of downtown and the U-M central campus, for instance), the downhill pull of gravity from the water plant is all that's required to maintain robust pressure. Pumps boost the flow to higher and more remote spots, feeding the city's two water towers, which hold a million gallons between them. The pumps run at a relatively constant rate. Each night, when usage is low, the extra water accumulates in the towers. When demand rises the next day, it flows back into the mains, so that your neighbor's morning shower doesn't cause any discernible slowing of yours.

or most people, that fleeting moment when water passes between the showerhead and the drain is the only visible part of the water cycle. For Field Services, it's the one part they don't see. The crews' interest resumes once the water has been run through faucets, sprinklers, or people, and enters the sewers.

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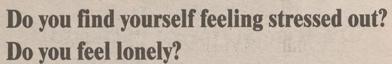
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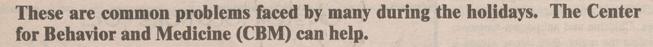


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BENEATH THE CITY

cides, fertilizer, and anything else that can slither through a grate or drainage ditch) directly into the Huron River. Sanitary lines are a more "closed system," accepting what's flushed or washed through sewer main hookups.

Sewage, as they say, runs downhill. In Ann Arbor's case, it spills into pipes along the river and flows to the Waste Water Treatment Plant on Dixboro Road. I want to see this plant, too. Partly because it is the end point of the system, water's last gauntlet on its return to the Huron, but mainly because I want to see the system's culmination: a festival of sewage, sewage of incomprehensible proportions. Hupy indulges me, but with much less enthusiasm than he showed for the water plant.

Our tour begins in the poisonous Screen and Grit Building, a room sweating with foulness, where sewage is filtered through grates and cages. Black as asphalt, spangled with candy wrappers, rags, and half-inflated condoms, the extracted scum clings to the screens until someone, God knows how, cleans it off and takes it to a massive on-site incinerator.

Once through the initial filters, the water runs into vast settling ponds, some of them thirty feet deep and bubbling with a Stygian effervescence as carefully monitored bacteria gorge themselves on the contents. At every step along the way, more sewage settles out of the water, washing its color from black to chocolate brown to murky green. Ducks often float on the clarifier pools where the water is relatively clean, nibbling algae. The settled sewage is collected and dried as "biosolids"-120,000 gallons of it daily. In the summer, it's sold to farmers as fertilizer for animal feed crops; in the winter, it is taken to a landfill. Finally the water is filtered again, chlorinated, and flushedlooking clean but still carrying phosphorous and traces of other unsavory material-back into the Huron, where it continues the downstream trip that was interrupted earlier at Barton Dam.

eeping sewage flowing to the treatment plant is the goal of Bill Alber's preventive maintenance program. On my first morning out with a work crew, a cold dawn, I understand why Hupy has made such a point about his people having to work in the cold. I am already shivering when I catch up with the sanitary sewer jetting crew.

A huge tan "Vactor" truck, carrying what looks like a massive can on its back and girded with hoses and chrome water tanks, stands roaring at the end of Woodland Drive next to a small open plot of Greenview Park. It is barely light out, and the streets are vacant except for a few early-morning dog walkers. Near the front of the truck, huddled around an open manhole as if at a bonfire, stand two men wearing rubber boots and earplugs. A thick red hose descends from a massive winch on the truck's grill into the manhole; the



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hose is twitching and

jerking. Steam and watery spray curl up into the cold air. The men look at me when I approach, then stare back into the hole. Nobody says anything. After a while, they shut the hose off, reel it in, and introduce themselves.

Walt Douglas is the younger of the two, stocky as a wrestler, with close-cropped hair. His partner, Steve Selvig, taller, thinner, mustached with whitening whiskers, has worked for the department for seven years. They explain that their job as jetters is to clear the sanitary lines of obstructions.

What kinds of obstructions? I wonder.

"Well, solids mostly," Douglas answers, using the department euphemism for toilet waste. "Sometimes roots." He kicks what looks like a mat of burnt black seaweed lying on the side of the road. "The rodding crew came through here yesterday and cut these out."

Despite the fact that the jetter can spray at pressures up to 2,000 pounds per square inch, and though the Vactor truck carries an enormous vacuum hose slung across its cab for sucking out stubborn material, the jetting crew still can't handle the sewer's most common and intractable obstruction: tree roots. The roots infiltrate pipes when a tiny shoot grows through a seam, then blossom into a thick mat like the one Douglas is now toeing. So the jetting, rodding, and camera crews work in concert. When the jetting crew tried to flush this same line yesterday, the manhole filled with water because of the blockage. The rodders then came in with their sinister-looking plumber's snakes and hacked the roots from the line; today the jetters have returned to wash out looser debris. Later, the camera truck will explore the pipe to ensure that all of the oc-

clusions have been removed and that the pipe itself is in good condition.

For now, Selvig and Douglas need to continue jetting the line. They have reached the end of the street, but not the end of the sewer main, which runs under the park. Consulting a map, they drive into the park to another manhole hidden among canary grass and goldenrod. The object now is to clean the line between this new manhole and the one where they've just been standing. With a pickax, Douglas opens the iron cover.

The manhole is simply a concrete cylinder, maybe eight feet deep, with a rebar ladder built into the wall. At the bottom of the hole is a shallow stream of black water running between the mouths of two pipes. Wisps of steam roll up from the trickling water, along with a cloying, almost sweet stench.

Selvig pulls out a rusty, elaborately nozzled, oblong ball that resembles a cross between a land mine and a Fabergé egg. He screws it to the end of the hose and lowers it into the manhole until it lies pointing upstream into the pipe. Then he turns on the water.

I expect the jetter to spray forward, like a fire hose. Instead, a half dozen streams of water shoot backward, like jet exhaust, from nozzles encircling the egg. Selvig cranks up the water pressure. The truck's engine shrieks. Spraying harder, the egg begins to shake. A foul steam hisses around our faces. The egg quivers harder until suddenly the force of the jets launches it forward and it squirts up into the line. The hose unrolls into the hole, a surge of black water rising around it.

To make sure that the jetter clears the entire length of pipe, Douglas walks across the park and reopens the manhole where they started. Looking into the hole, we can hear the jetter coming, a blasting sound, like a high waterfall. As the nozzle passes through, a geyser shoots from the manhole. Then Selvig, still with the Vactor truck, winches the hose back in, dragging the pipe clean as if with a barbed harpoon of high-pressure water.

Returning to the truck, I ask Douglas if he likes his job. "You get to be outside," he nods, "and it's something different every day." He shines a flashlight into the

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BENEATH THE CITY

manhole, where the floor suddenly seems polished. I realize that the jetter has cleaned away a layer of thick black spackling. "Pretty good, huh?" he says proudly.

half hour later, after Douglas and Selvig have driven off, the camera truck shows up and parks. It's crewed by Kevin Ernst and Carl Exelby. Ernst is a talkative, baby-faced bear; his partner seems to be struggling to keep himself in check: Exelby's body is coiled, as if poised to leap, and when he smiles he looks as though he's about to give away a

Of all of the oversized power tools the Field Services division employs, the camera van is the most impressive. Ernst gives me a quick tour. The rear cargo area houses a cable winch that lowers the camera into manholes and provides it with power. Once inside the sewer, it travels on a wheeled block of wood that looks like the last-place entrant in a model-car competition. To this block are attached two metal cylinders, each a couple feet long. One is the motor, the other, with a swiveling nose containing a video lens and miniature halogen headlights, is the camera itself.

Ernst drags the contraption to a manhole, opens the cover, and points his flashlight in. A stench blooms. At the bottom of the hole, the usual stream of black water trickles past, but there is something else, too. Down in the middle of the stream, resisting the flow, is a soggy clump of toilet paper. And there, standing in the midst of it, shimmering in the flashlight's glare, pointing directly upward like a missile or a church spire, is .

"Some solids down there," Ernst deadpans, and drops the camera in.

Exelby, meanwhile, is in the back of the van, in a sort of office complete with linoleum floor and a wheeled chair. He sits at a desk outfitted with a video screen and VCR, two keyboards, and a control console of switches, gauges, buttons, and flashing lights. From here, he can drive the camera and videotape its pictures. A microphone allows him to narrate the tape, and an on-screen script shows the pipe's location, size, and the distance the camera has traveled.

Using knobs and buttons on his control panel, he focuses the picture and adjusts for brightness. The image is surprisingly sharp, revealing in vivid colors the pebbles and grit in the pipe walls. He pushes a button and the camera creeps forward past bright walls toward an always receding black hole. Exelby points out a watermark two-thirds of the way up the side of the pipe and explains that before the roots were removed, sewage had risen to that level. If it had gone much higher, it would have started backing up into the residential lines that feed the main.

Because nothing seems to be blocking the freshly cleaned line, and the pipe looks to be in good shape, Exelby reels in the

odor of sewage, thick as scorched sugar, wafts from the manhole. After a morning of smelling it, I feel as if it is stuck to the roof of my mouth. "Do you just learn to deal with this stuff?" I ask.

Exelby shrugs. "You get used to it. There's a lot worse things to deal with. Like I would never want to pick up garbage. Some of the things you see in that . . ." He squirms in disgust.

I ask whether they have trouble keeping the system clear with all of the scheduling pressures the foremen have described. "Ann Arbor's the city of trees," Exelby replies. "But trees are the worst thing for a sewer. But," he grins again, as though he's about to give away his secret. "I don't mind it. Job security."

hile the crews don't seem as affected by external pressures as their foremen, their routine work does turn complicated. Even finding a pipe or manhole can become an adventure. As John Bellows explained to me, "The old-timers years ago didn't have tape measures or ropes," when the original maps were drawn up, "so they'd just step off their measurements, and the distance all depended on the size shoe they were wearing. Or the measurements were taken off a fourteen-inch elm tree, but by now the tree's gone."

Mark Nastos, the man who discovered the antique license plate, and Mark Shelhart are each Field Services veterans of about a decade. The rodding truck they drive is the size of a pickup, with a tank on the back that hides a sort of gyroscopic cable reel. Onto the cable they attach tools that can chop through thickets of roots. A "spiral cutter," a rotating cylinder with saw teeth, makes the first pass. Then a three-pronged "chisel," which looks like an industrial-strength eggbeater, polishes off the job. As the cable shoves the cutting tools through the pipe, turning them at the same time, a rasping sound whispers up from the manhole.

Though rodding is often the first step in the cleaning process, it is the last stop on my tour of the Field Services operation. Watching Shelhart and Nastos, I feel like an old hand. It is another cold morning, but this time, I've drunk several cups of coffee to ward off the chill. I am feeling almost cozy as Nastos sends the spiral cutter uphill through a long main and Shelhart walks up to await it at the next manhole.

But he can't find the hole. His map shows both sanitary and storm sewer manholes at the top of the hill, but as he walks along the roadside, pushing aside brush and peering into yards, Shelhart finds only the storm line. At the bottom of the hill, Nastos, bearded and balding with sharp, smart eyes, radios up to Shelhart to put his ear to the ground and listen for the cutter's grind. Nothing. They bring out a measuring wheel and roll out what the map indicates is the proper distance. As near as they can tell, someone has buried the manhole beneath a gravel driveway. Such problems

camera, steps outside, and hoses it off. The aren't uncommon, they say. Sometimes manholes are buried by landscapers, other times they get paved over. In the winter, even normally accessible covers are often obscured by snow and ice.

> To locate the hole precisely, Shelhart uses a magnetic finder, a three-foot-long yellow rod that whistles when it crosses metal. Patiently sweeping it over the gravel, with his salt-and-pepper hair squashed against the side of his head, he looks half calm professional and half insane backyard prospector. At last he hears a promising whistle and starts to dig through the gravel with a pick. After chopping twelve inches down, though, he still hasn't hit anything. I wonder whether they'll have to excavate the entire driveway. Nastos suggests they bring in the camera, which can measure the distance from manhole to manhole with precision.

I want to stay and watch. It seems to me that this is the sort of problem that characterizes their work, that keeps it interesting. I can see why everyone I've asked has said that he likes his job-even the routine tasks aren't always routine. But the coffee I've drunk has gone through my system. I'm cold. I have to pee. Stomping and shifting, I wait as long as I can. Finally I have to wish them well and tear home, crashing in torment into the bathroom.

In the next blissful minute, I think about the narrow pipe that runs from my house to the twelve-inch sewer main beneath the street, and about the long, widening course it follows to the sewage treatment plant, part of an underground web of water mains, gas lines, electrical cables, and telephone wires. I see the whole network, rapidly growing and simultaneously decaying, needing to be unplugged, washed, examined.

Suddenly I realize that is my underground city. Not the one I'd expected, of course. This one is more ordinary, smaller in scale. To contemplate its secrets is to think about the streets above it, the Vactor trucks rumbling around, the camera crew with their heads in a manhole, the bunkered control room in the Water Treatment Plant, the water crews digging through snow and frozen soil to uncover a cracked main.

I remember something Craig Hupy said as we toured the system: "Someone's working on this twentyfour hours a day. Any time vou turn on a tap or flush toithere's someone working to make that happen. And they do it in all kinds of

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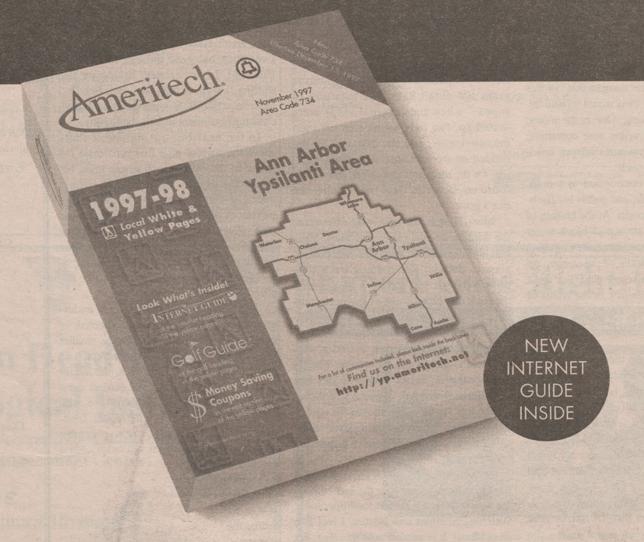
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The Weather Underground

One of the world's leading on-line weather sources is based in a windowless room on Broadway. Here's how a handful of local techies are challenging national giants like the Weather Channel.

by Michael Betzold



very day, enough people to fill Michigan Stadium visit a tiny office on Ann Arbor's near north side. On the World Wide Web, there are countless signs pointing the way to the Weather Underground. Outside cyberspace, there are none, not even a listing in the phone book

To get inside the command center of one of the Internet's most popular sites, you have to climb over a toddler-proof gate from the office next door. In the cubicle, keeping company with a phone and five ordinary-looking computers, is an easygoing young man in jeans. In the corner is a guitar. On the desk are a watermelon, a bottle of Mountain Dew, and a pack of Trident gum. This is the headquarters of the Weather Underground, 1990s version.

The young man in jeans, Jeff Ferguson, was still a child when the original Weather Underground hatched plots. That Weather Underground was the militant faction of the Weathermen, which was the militant faction of Students for a Democratic Society, which was led by U-M student Tom Hayden and friends in the 1960s and was a militant faction of the movement against the Vietnam War.

Ferguson and his partners are militant about only two things: low overhead and personally answering all of their E-mail. Keeping costs down means sharing an office building with the couple who run Internet Advertising Services and who often bring their child to work. The Internet weather service relied on by CNN, AT&T, and the DJ Strut & Brake Shop in Troy-not to mention millions of web surfers—has a full-time staff of two: Ferguson and Alan Steremberg, who works out of California's Silicon Valley.

Like the weather, their E-mail is unceasing, fairly predictable, but sometimes surprising. A student in Boston wants to know if this summer's drought was the worst this century. A guy in Australia is looking for data on El Niño. A woman in Modesto is wondering whether the weather next May 16 will be dry, because her daughter is thinking about getting married that day. Someone in Louisville, trying to be helpful, writes simply to say: "It's 54 and raining."

Ferguson and Steremberg are computer engineers, not meteorologists, but they're adept at pointing people in the right directions to get their weather questions answered. They type a personal response to every message, which astonishes computer users who are used to automated responses from web businesses.

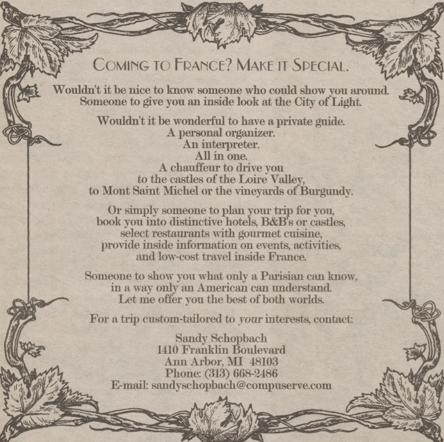
At the Weather Underground (www. wunderground.com), E-mail is about the only thing that isn't automated. A cadre of crack programmers scattered across the country has produced software that allows weather data from around the world to be digested, packaged, and transmitted in myriad forms around-the-clock. The computers run themselves, allowing the staff the time to be folksy and personal with their website callers.

"I think of them as visitors and friends," Ferguson says. If so, Ferguson probably has more friends than anyone on the planet.

Sometimes, though, the Weather Underground's visitors E-mail a message of consternation: Hey, your site is great, but don't you realize that you're named after a bunch of terrorists?

Weather webmasters Jeff Masters and Jeff Ferguson.







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The Weather Underground

n 1969, Perry Samson was living fifty miles from Woodstock, New York. He decided not to go to the concert because he heard the traffic was bad. Obviously Samson lived through the Age of Aquarius without becoming a card-carrying member of the counterculture, let alone Students for a Democratic Society.

It was whimsy and a touch of twisted nostalgia, not politics, that prompted Samson to pick the name Weather Underground from the dustheap of history. He wasn't thinking about corporate image at the time. It was the early 1990s, and Ann Arbor was at the center of the gestating Internet. Samson, a professor in the U-M's department of atmospheric and space sciences, was researching air pollution with his graduate assistant, Jeff Masters, a former hurricane hunter for the National Weather Service.

In a lab at the Space Research Building on North Campus, Samson and Masters cooked up what seemed a modest idea. Using Telnet, software to access text-only information on the Internet, they wrote a program that enabled computer users to retrieve current weather conditions and forecasts by typing in any three-letter airport code. "Our hope was that the department would be able to use it," Samson recalls. "We never thought it would go beyond that."

But by word of mouth and modem its popularity spread, first around the U-M, then across cyberspace. When Hurricane Bob hit, a Usenet group tipped its readers that the site included hurricane data, and overnight the traffic quintupled, to 20,000 users. "We quickly realized that we had something we couldn't control out there," says Samson. "It was expanding geometrically." Within months it became the most popular Telnet session on the rapidly growing web. "It was exciting to be at the forefront of the Internet," Masters recalls. "Weather was one of the driving forces."

Samson figured that anything attracting that much attention had educational potential. In 1992 he got a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to refine the Weather Underground's tools, add imagery and animation, and create an educational weather software package for elementary and secondary students. To write the software, he recruited Ferguson, an undergraduate computer science and education student who was creating the first multimedia classroom for the atmospheric science department, and Steremberg, a U-M sophomore and computer whiz.

Using "gopher" technology—the next step after Telnet—the Weather Underground team created programs that allowed students to study weather as it happened. "Gopher" was so named because it originated at the University of Minnesota, home of the Golden Gophers. In response, Samson dubbed his K–12 project "Blue Skies," trying to play off "Go Blue." Among Blue Skies' innovative features were interactive maps on which students could point and click to get weather data and definitions. The software complemented a weather curriculum, Kids as Global Scientists, devel-

oped at the University of Colorado by Nancy Songer, who is now at the U-M. Students collected their own weather data in school yards, then posted their observations on the Internet. Mack Elementary students could use the program, for example, to try to figure out why it might be five degrees warmer on their playground than it was at Pioneer High's parking lot. At its peak, hundreds of schools across the nation used Blue Skies.

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The National Science Foundation, as part of its grant, had asked Samson to study models of how to make his project self-sustaining. U-M's office of technology transfer aided in the transition from university research project to private corporation. ("It looks good for the university to produce spin-off companies," Masters points out.) So in March 1995, with traffic on the Weather Underground's site still increasing, its originators-two unorthodox U-M meteorologists, Samson and Masters, and two computer whiz kids, Ferguson and Steremberg-incorporated it as a private company. They were joined by three other partners who live in New York, Idaho, and California.

Most Internet start-up companies fail. But the Weather Underground wasn't starting from scratch. Many thousands of loyal users had bookmarked the site on their Internet browsers. And the Weather Underground's founders had several years of Internet experience, which made them old hands at navigating the rapidly changing waters of the World Wide Web.

Samson and the three out-of-town owners are not involved in the day-to-day operations of Weather Underground, Inc., but they're part of the team that sets policy and has a hand in major innovations. All seven partners have equal shares in the company and equal voice in its decisions. Only Ferguson and Steremberg draw salaries; Masters also works half-time on the site without pay.

In the Weather Underground bunker next to Nikko's Pizza on Broadway, the five computers toil day and night, performing like supercomputers. "They're the same kind you would get at Best Buy," Ferguson insists, but they operate on Unix rather than Windows. Each computer has a nickname: Moonlight, Sunshine, Raindancer, Moonrise, and Rainmaker.

There are no windows in the office. If a storm passes over Ann Arbor during one of their long sessions at the keyboard, the webmasters may never know about it unless they look it up on their screens. "I spend so much of my time making weather data available to millions of people on the Internet, I often don't have time myself to explore the weather," Masters says.

He's not complaining. Life in the Weather Underground's command module is a lot safer than flying planes through hurricanes.

As a hurricane spotter in the late 1980s, Masters was dispatched on the first plane to fly into Hurricane Hugo. The crew flew in dangerously low, at about 1,500 feet, in order to conduct some experiments. Near the center of the storm, the winds were much stronger than anticipated. The plane was slapped silly, and an engine caught fire. The pilot managed to get into the storm's calm eye, but with only three engines available, the crippled plane spent an hour trying desperately to climb to a safer altitude. Masters figured he was a goner until an Air Force rescue plane, after three attempts, found a relatively calm passage and led the plane through the raging eye wall to safety.

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Hurricane chasing was a dream job for a meteorologist, "but I got older and wiser and decided not to do that stuff anymore," Masters says. Now the work he does as a postdoctoral student at the U-M and as a part-owner of the Weather Underground is mostly maintenance and troubleshooting. If there's a forecast that isn't updating or a blank part of a radar map, Masters finds out if the National Weather Service, another data provider, or the Weather Underground's own equipment is at fault. He still is constantly scrambling—but at least his life isn't in danger.

All of the weather data that flow through the Internet originate in a computer at Boston University, which gets its information under a contract with the National Weather Service. Then the information fans out to other university computers and on to commercial users. The data come every second of every day, so interruptions are instantly felt. Says Masters, "When there's an Internet outage, it's the weather people who scream first."

any companies want to be the world's on-line weather source, and most of them are a lot bigger than the Weather Underground. Its rivals include the Weather Channel, an on-line extension of the cable TV giant; Weather Services International, a large company linked to MSNBC; and Accuweather, a private forecasting firm that long has provided weather feeds to radio stations nationwide.

How does a tiny Ann Arbor start-up play in this league? The Weather Underground's success is a triumph of automation and the entrepreneurial powers of the middleman. It doesn't forecast any weather. It doesn't collect any weather observations. There's no thermometer in the parking lot outside its office. The system simply takes in information and make it understandable, accessible, and usable.

The big boys have flashier sites. The Weather Underground keeps things simple. "Our users come from a variety of backgrounds, so we try to keep it friendly," Ferguson explains.

Yet within its simple framework, the site offers more information than most of its competitors. You can search by zip code, city name, state, or country. Type in "Manchester" to get current conditions, and the Weather Channel gives you two possible cities—the one in England or the one in New Hampshire. The Weather Underground gives you twenty-six Manchesters, including the one in Michigan, where Ferguson lives. Try "Norway," and the Weather Channel gives you three cities, the Weather Underground twenty.

Globe-trotting on the Weather Underground is as simple as a few keystrokes. In a minute or two, you can discover that it's 26 degrees and snowing in Barrow, Alaska, but 77 degrees and clear in Bora-Bora, French Polynesia. In the Congo, you can get the temperature and humidity for Brazzaville, Mouyondzi, and Pointe-Noire. If you're planning a visit to Iceland, you can almost feel the dank of the 40-degree overcast in Reykjavík, the showery 41 in Vestmannaeyjar, or the balmy 48 of Egilsstadir. For many places, you can also get the times of sunrise and sunset.

Want maps of current temperatures around the United States, maps of forecast highs and lows, radar, satellite images? No problem. A few keystrokes or mouse tracks, and you've got it. Tropical weather? When there's a hurricane in the Atlantic, the traffic gets so heavy the screens in the Weather Underground bunker start scrolling, tracking scores of hits every second.

What makes the scrawny-looking website so muscular? It's the programming that its team of techno-wizards can churn out on call. Each has a specialty, and by playing a "pass-the-baton game," Ferguson says, they can get something new going in next to no time. Without a big budget, the firm doesn't invest in technology that's three years away from making an impact. "But when it's time to get the software out, it'll be done," Ferguson says.

Some of the Weather Underground's doodads-such as software that designs custom-made graphics for banners-have made its competitors drool with envy. But, Ferguson says, only enough to make "insulting" offers to acquire the software and the brainpower of the Underground.

'They've all tried to hire us, but they're all kind of crappy," he says. The Weather Channel and the Weather Underground collaborated for awhile, advertising the cable giant's weather store, but the Underground soon decided to go it alone. Recently, the group even turned down some venture capital.

"We've deliberately kept things small," Ferguson says. "It's not that I don't want to get big, I just don't know how to do it any other way. I mow a lawn, then I mow the next lawn, then I buy a lawn mower and mow some more lawns. When the time is right, I'm willing to be a part of something big.

"I suppose we could have a whole building with our own comfortable chairs, but I prefer it this way."

ne of the amazing things about the Internet is that 2.5 people can provide information to millions of web surfers. Another is that it doesn't much matter where those 2.5 people live. While Ferguson and Masters both work in Ann Arbor, Alan Steremberg holds up his end of the site from California, where he's a grad student at Stanford University.

Steremberg had no prior interest in weather when he was recruited to write software for the Weather Underground as a U-M sophomore. After graduation, he

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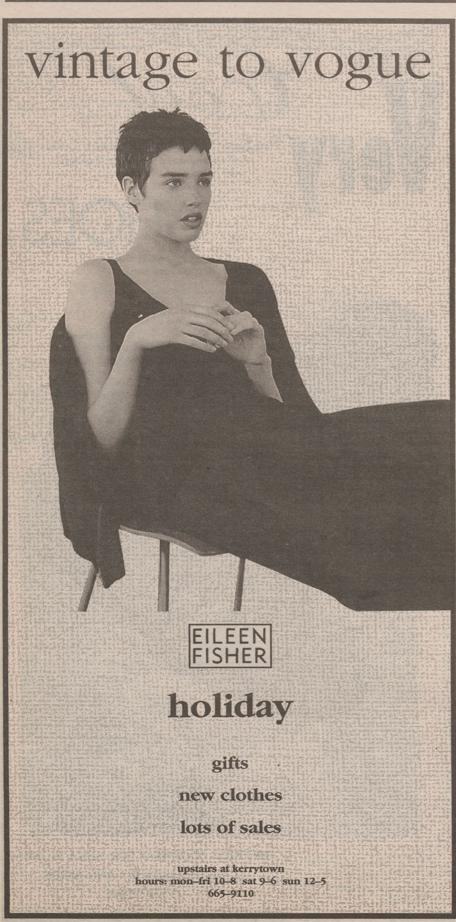
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The Weather Underground

got a job at an Internet start-up company and figured he was done with weather. But the new company soon failed, so he enrolled in a master's program in humancomputer interaction at Stanford. To support himself in the meantime, he began working full-time for the Weather Underground in January 1996.

He and Ferguson split up most of the work, with Ferguson concentrating of late on advertising sales and business development and Steremberg selling custom weather sites to TV stations and newspapers. But when either gets burned out, they just switch tasks for a few days.

It's not yet clear whether you can make money on the Internet doing much of anything, let alone giving out the weather for free. The Underground's big competitors, who all make their revenues elsewhere, justify the huge losses on their websites as an advertising expense—not an option for an upstart that exists only on the web.

With its incredible number of visitors, it might seem as though the Weather Underground could make a bundle selling ads. This fall alone, traffic on the site nearly doubled—a jump Ferguson attributes to the National Weather Service's decision to shut down its own website in September. (The NWS concluded that it should leave the mass marketing of weather information to commercial providers.) Though the Underground works with a service that places national ads on its site, Internet advertising is still in its infancy, and so far, ads haven't been a big source of revenue.

Fortunately, the Weather Underground has several other sources of income. The largest is generating customized weather packages for Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV stations, radio stations, and newspapers. The Underground provides one product for the CNN network.

At first, it didn't seem to make sense to design weather webpages for ISPs. It was too labor-intensive a task. The team's ingenious solution: they wrote software that enabled customers to design the pages themselves. In a few minutes, buyers can assemble their own "Autobrand" weather package on-line. Want a daily radar map? That'll be \$25 a month. High temperatures for ten cities? Just point and click. "The amount of money we charge them to make a customized page is less than the health insurance for one employee to do that [work]," Ferguson says. Among the thirty sites now sporting Autobrand pages are a dating service, a food delivery company in Chicago, and the DJ Strut & Brake Shop

The Weather Underground supplies data feeds to about a half dozen companies, first packaging the information to make it usable. Winweather software and Macintosh's Weather Tracker both use these feeds. The site also has an on-line weather store of weather videos, books, software, and other products. Between one thing and another, Ferguson says, their revenues doubled in the first nine months of 1997 (he won't reveal the actual numbers).

And the Weather Underground's entrepreneurs are dreaming up new ways to build traffic and revenue. In early September, they started offering Wunder Graphics, banners for webpages showing a local city's current weather. No press release was issued; they simply put the offer on their site. The service is free, but subscribers must agree to make a link to the Weather Underground on their homepage. By mid-November, 45,000 sites had signed up.

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"All the stickers have our logo, so they're promoting our brand," Steremberg says. "The idea is to build up relationships with websites all over the country." This grassroots approach is a typical Weather Underground tactic. "It'll be interesting to see what our competitors do," Steremberg says. "However they respond, it'll take them months to do the same thing, and by then who knows how many stickers we'll have out there."

Ferguson sees real growth potential for another source of revenue: subscription-based personalized weather services. AT&T in October launched a new wireless phone that allows customers to do E-mail, browse webpages, and get stock quotes, sports scores, and weather information. The Weather Underground has the contract to provide the weather data.

Right now, the phone gives users the capacity to set up four cities and get the weather conditions and forecasts for each at a touch of the keypad. Ferguson is already dreaming of personalizing that service by having customers fill out a profile that will tell the Weather Underground to alert them under certain conditions. If you have a standing golf date on Saturday, you could get beeped as soon as rain appears in the forecast. If you're a trucker, you'd be warned when there's severe weather on the road ahead. Ferguson imagines many potential customers: roofers, skiers, bicyclists, traveling salespeople, commuting parents.

For now, that vision is still "vaporware"—an idea in his head. Asked what would be needed to make it come true, Ferguson says, "A few pots of coffee and a weekend."

rash and a little cocky, the Weather Underground is not afraid to try new things. One experiment was a live TV feed to classrooms from the Space Research Building that focused on current destructive weather. Unfortunately, the weekly show, titled "Disaster in the Classroom," proved to be just that: no one called the 800 number set up to field live questions from students. Jeff Masters's conclusion: "People are used to being passive when they watch TV."

The flop hasn't diminished the Weather Underground's appetite for adventurous innovations, whether in the classroom or commercially. According to Perry Samson, his goal is "trying to build the website of two years from now" to serve the needs of a larger community.

His vision is to "go beyond millions of hits a day . . . Instead of a buffet, make it a drive-through, so you can get exactly what

you want." For novice web surfers frustrated by all the dreck they have to wade through to catch a good wave, it sounds like salvation.

The Internet has shot from infancy to adolescence in just five years. Predicting where it will go next, let alone which players will survive, is a chancy business. But no matter what happens, Masters vows, "We'll be here, trying the next new thing.'

Ferguson is convinced that by keeping costs down and maintaining commercial and financial independence, the Weather Underground can survive the inevitable shakedowns to come in the Internet weath-

Sounding quietly militant, he vows: "When the dust settles, we're still gonna

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Dr. Samson's Hurricane Watch

ince the early 1990s—the dawn of time on the Internet—U-M professor Perry Samson has worked to make weather information available on-line for teachers and researchers (see story). Now he's looking for ways to make weather on the web even more useful.

Weather, Samson believes, is the best example yet of how the Internet can be useful in the classroom. But the marriage of the web and schoolrooms hasn't been a smooth one. Teachers are frustrated by a lack of machines, slow response time, and the continuing problem of keeping students on task as they're hooked into the

So in 1995, Samson teamed up with the U-M's School of Education and Nancy Songer's Kids As Global Scientists program. Funded by a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation, Samson and Jeff Masters embarked on a new project, which they dubbed, "One Sky, Many Voices." They envisioned students around the world making and sharing observations of their environment.

To get around the limitations of the Internet in the classroom, One Sky, Many Voices has developed a series of interactive CD-ROMs for the classroom. Samson calls these "Internet retrievers," as distinct from "Internet browsers."

The first CD, "Hurricanes '97," debuted October 6. Its software allows stu-

dents to "fly through" an Atlantic hurricane, getting readings on wind, pressure, and clouds at any point along the way. They can visit a "Hurricane Hall of Fame" to discover paths and images of famous storms throughout history.

And they can play a prediction game, matching wits with the National Weather Service in issuing watches and warnings for the southeastern United States as "Hurricane Zarathustra" (in reality, Hurricane Fran of 1996) approaches land. On each day, as the hurricane gets closer to the coast, the game player can issue watches or warnings for coastal cities. You gain or lose points for accuracy of warnings. If you warn too many places, the consequences are spelled out: "Since it costs an average of \$346,000 per kilometer" to evacuate, set up shelters, and mobilize emergency personnel, "your overwarning has cost the public a pretty penny." Students are also told: "They'll be less likely to believe you the next time

But the sternest lecture, delivered with a mixture of Weather Underground morbidity and whimsy, comes if students are too conservative: "Disaster! You failed to warn a city that got hit, the storm surge killing thousands of people on unprotected barrier islands, with winds and flooding wreaking immense damage and loss of life across the area. Posterity will curse your name, calling you 'The Hurricane Center Butcher' and blame you entirely for this needless slaughter of innocent people. Needless to say, your job is toast. Flee to Nepal immediately."

The real fun, and what makes the One Sky CD unique, is that students can do

the same prediction game with a real Atlantic hurricane. If the user is connected to the Internet, the CD will check to see if there is an active tropical storm. The only problem: this fall's Atlantic storm season was one of the quietest on record.

One Sky's future CD-ROMs include one on snowstorms, to be issued in February, one on air pollution and the ozone layer next spring, and a water conservation CD for next fall.

John Freeman, a teacher at Pittsfield Elementary who has worked with the Weather Underground's educational programs since 1993, says the hurricane CD had his students enthralled.

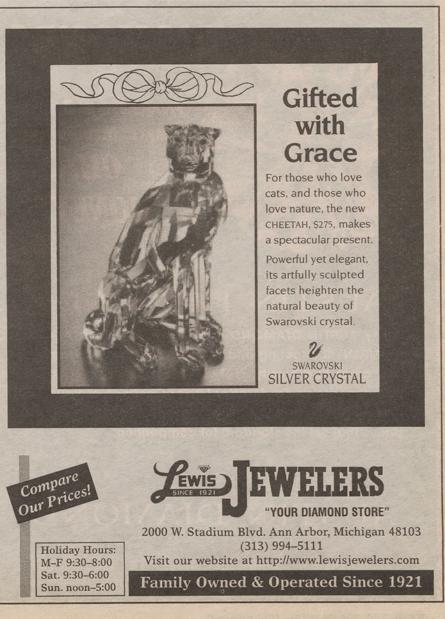
"It's incredible how excited they are working with it," he says. "It's something I've never seen before. Weather's something very real, it's something we live with. When they work with this program, kids are being scientists, they're doing real research." Combining Samson's innovations and Songer's program, according to Freeman, merges "cutting-edge technology and the most current educational research." Samson is now talking about creating a commercial spin-off, to let grown-ups play, too.

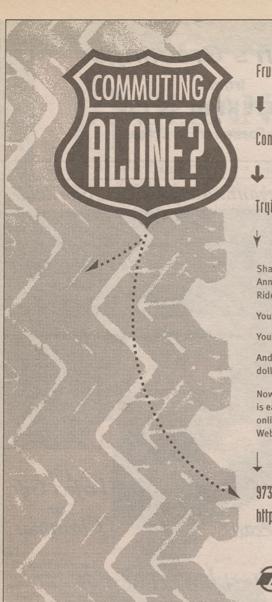
Eighty schools, including some in Trinidad, Algeria, South Korea, and Canada, currently are involved in One Sky, Many Voices. During the four-week Hurricanes '97 project, they posted about 800 messages to one another.

"This is what their world's going to be like," Freeman says. "They're going to be working like this with people all over the world."

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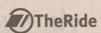
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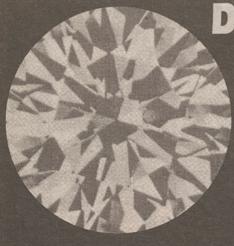
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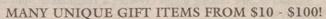


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Central, the little Ann Arbor Railroad once carried the city's name all across lower Michigan.

BY GRACE SHACKMAN

the route more closely identified with the city elsewhere in the state was its namesake, the little Ann Arbor Railroad.

The Michigan Central ran east-west, linking Ann Arbor to the big-city worlds of New York and Chicago. Known affectionately as "the Annie," the Ann Arbor Railroad ran south to Toledo and northwest to Frankfort, Michigan, stopping along the way at small towns such as Whitmore Lake and Owosso.

Ann Arbor's two train stations, built just three years apart, testified to the Annie's junior status. In 1886, the Michigan Central spent \$33,000 to build a grand station on Depot Street. As the Gandy Dancer restaurant, the elaborate stone building remains an Ann Arbor landmark to this day. By comparison, the Ann Arbor Railroad spent only \$4,400 to build its new station in 1889. Today, few people even realize that the Doughty-Law Montessori School at 416 South Ashley Street was once one of the gateways to the city.

Though modest, the Ashley Street station possessed a simple elegance. The waiting room had a fireplace, detailed woodwork, and pew-like wooden benches on wrought-iron frames. A telegraph operator and a stationmaster, both wearing green eyeshades, sat in a bay window overlooking the tracks, where they could see trains coming and going. Originally, a baggage shed stood to the south of the station,

an open stretch of platform; the two buildings were connected in the 1920s.

Until the station was built, Ashley Street was known as East Second Street. Even today many people are puzzled that Ann Arbor has Fourth and Fifth streets, on the Old West Side, and Fourth and Fifth avenues, downtown. But the original names were even more bewildering: the avenues were also called streets, and the only way to tell them apart was to specify "east" or "west." The new name eliminated the confusion with West Second Street, just two blocks away, while simultaneously recognizing the Ann Arbor Railroad's builder, "Big Jim" Ashley.

orn in 1822, Jim Ashley was a flamboyant character with strong opinions. He was described by Henry Riggs, a chief engineer of the Annie who went on to become dean of the U-M's Engineering School, as "a very large man, probably six feet tall and very heavy. His

white hair was worn long,

down nearly to his coat collar in the style affected by Henry Ward Beecher." Like Beecher, Ashley was a passionate abolitionist. He was elected to Congress from his home state of Ohio in 1858 and helped to guide the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery, through Congress in 1865.

After serving five terms, Ashley was defeated for reelection because he had supported the attempt to impeach president Andrew Johnson. Fortunately, he had ties to Ulysses Grant, who was elected president the same year. Grant appointed Ashley governor of the Montana Territory. He was known as "Governor Ashley" for the rest of his life, long after he retired from politics and returned to Toledo to invest in the burgeoning railroad industry.

Ashley's inspiration to build a railroad north into Michigan came after he discovered that the only way he could visit his sons attending the U-M was to travel via

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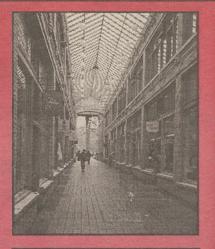
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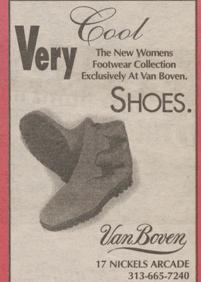
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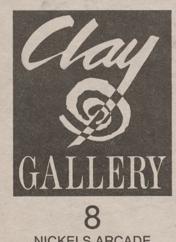


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'Big Jim" Ashley pushed the Ann Arbor Railroad north by hook and crook.

Detroit. Even before the Civil War, some people in Ann Arbor had tried to create a north-south railroad that would compete with the Michigan Central, but the attempt had folded before any track was laid. Ashley bought up the stock in the defunct company, gaining control of the right-of-way it had acquired to the city. Then he turned around and resold stock to Ann Arbor business leaders to raise funds for construction.

The new railroad reached Ann Arbor at noon on May 16, 1878. After the workmen laid the track across South State Street, they were escorted by a band and a procession of citizens to Hill's Opera House, where the Reform Club served them a temperance supper-Ashley, a deeply religious man, strongly opposed drinking. (During his tenure as president of the railroad, he also insisted that no trains run on Sundays.)

The railroad passed west of downtown along Allen's Creek. Chosen because it was relatively flat, the route also turned out to be a good source of freight traffic because many factories had located along the creek to take advantage of its water. The tracks crossed the Michigan Central near Main Street, then spanned the Huron River on a wooden bridge (replaced twice since) and continued north toward Whitmore Lake.

Over the next decade, Ashley gradually kept building northwest, town by town. For all of his show of religious piety, Ashley was no more scrupulous than other capitalists of the freewheeling Gilded Age. He once hijacked a shipment of rails being transported on the Annie for his own use and was briefly jailed before he paid for them. Other lawsuits filed against his business to collect unpaid bills were fought out in the courts clear into the twentieth century. And he sometimes resorted to quasi-legal shenanigans to secure right-of-ways. In one case, when a property owner refused to sell, Ashley sent him a notice to appear in court in another city—then built the tracks while he was out of town.

In a talk given to the Washtenaw Historical Society, Dan McClary, who has

done extensive research on the railroad, commented that "except for Ann Arbor, [Ashley] missed every major city in the state. The reason he did was Toledo was a major port. They shipped a lot of commodities down there and he was tapping into Michigan's products, especially grain, produce, livestock and timber."

Finally, in 1892, at the age of seventy, Ashley purchased a small local line that connected the Ann Arbor Railroad to Lake Michigan at Frankfort. Such a move wasn't the dead end it seemed. The resourceful Ashley had picked Frankfort for its excellent harbor, and he had already cut deals with railroads across the lake in Wisconsin and in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He launched the world's first open-water rail ferry service, hauling loaded freight cars back and forth across the lake. To attract even more traffic to Frankfort, he built a large tourist hotel, the Royal Frontenac, that drew vacationers from as far away as southern Ohio and Chicago.

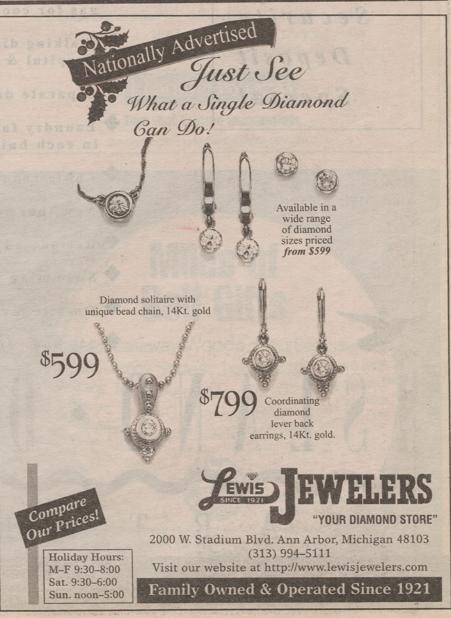
loser to home, Ann Arborites often took the Annie to Whitmore Lake to spend the day at the beach, or to attend dances at the town's two major hotels. Families who owned summer places in the area could get off at Whitmore Lake or Lakeland (near Zukey Lake, which connects to the Huron River chain of lakes) and transfer to a commercial launch that would take them right to their cottages. Vacation traffic was so heavy that in the summer, the railroad scheduled eight trains a day between Ann Arbor and Whitmore Lake, dubbing the run the "Ping-Pong Special."

Passengers also rode the train south to Ohio. George Koch remembers as a boy taking the train to Toledo, back when "you really were traveling when you'd go fifty or sixty miles from home." People often came by train when they were referred to University Hospital for complex medical problems-it was fairly common to see patients taken off the train on a stretcher.











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And as Ashley had hoped, U-M students from Ohio used the Annie to get to school. Football Saturdays were an especially busy time for the railroad; when Michigan played Ohio State, the line carried fans from all over the Midwest.

Football fans—and everybody else—began to drive their own cars in the 1910s and 1920s. But while passenger traffic on the railroad gradually declined, freight service took up the slack. In Ann Arbor, the track was lined with businesses that relied on it for deliveries of coal (from West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee), lumber (from up north), or block ice (from the same lakes where people vacationed). Other firms used the railroad to ship their finished products, including organs, furniture, and flour.

The busiest shippers had their own rail sidings, where freight cars could be parked off the main track for loading and unloading. Cars bound for these sidings would be delivered to the railroad's roundhouse behind Ferry Field, then delivered by a small switch engine the next day. All other cars were dropped at the freight house at William and First streets (now a GT Products parking lot) to be unloaded.

To get the best price on shipping, George Koch remembers that several construction companies would order building supplies together. Paul Lohr recalls that farm implement companies would send a single shipment destined for retail outlets in several towns; the owners would all go down together and help one another load their trucks. The late Frank Braatz recalled that he once ordered a Sears kit house that was delivered to the freight house on several cars; he went down with a horse-drawn wagon to pick it up.

ne of Ashley's original goals had been to make Toledo more of a rival to Detroit, and to some extent, he succeeded. Enough Ann Arborites were interested in what was happening in Toledo to provide a customer base for the Toledo Blade. In the late 1920s, Sam Schlecht used to meet the train from Toledo to pick up bundles of the paper, which he then delivered to the Ann Arbor drugstores and cigar stores that sold them. Before Prohibition, the Annie also delivered two Toledo-brewed beers, Buckeye and Green Seal. Distributor Fred Dupper would go down to the freight house with his horse and wagon to pick up the beer, along with the ice to keep it cold.

In the 1940s, the Annie carried oranges from Florida. A group of local investors owned an orange grove there and would sell their crop from a boxcar parked near the Ann Arbor Implement Company on First Street. They built a little orange-painted shed near the tracks to store left-over fruit for later sale.

The railroad also had spin-off effects on the local economy. For instance, train engineers provided jeweler John Eibler with extra business by coming in at regular intervals to have their watches cleaned and calibrated. Eibler's grandson, also John Eibler, worked at the store and remembers the watches as "big, heavy things." He explains, "By law they had to be cleaned regularly, whether they needed it or not, like airplanes today."

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assenger service enjoyed a reprieve during World War II, when railroads were used extensively to transport troops. The Annie's last passenger train ran in 1950. Freight traffic also declined after the war, as more and more shippers switched to trucks.

America's railroads went through a wave of bankruptcies and reorganizations in the 1960s and 1970s. The former Michigan Central eventually emerged as part of Conrail, the government-backed freight line; Amtrak also uses the east-west track to carry six daily passenger trains between Detroit and Chicago.

The Ann Arbor Railroad ended up in the hands of the state government. The state still owns the northern section, which now runs only as far as Yuma, near Cadillac. In the 1980s, however, a private company bought the track from Ann Arbor to Toledo. The reconstituted Ann Arbor Railroad currently runs two daily freight trains carrying auto parts, finished autos, sand,

cement, grain, lumber, produce, and agricultural products. The only current stops in Ann Arbor are at Fingerle Lumber and Burt Forest Products, on Felch Street.

When passenger service ended, the Ashley Street station stood empty for a few years, then was used for short periods by various businesses: a beer distributor, a teenage nightclub, a counter shop. None lasted very long. Then in 1984, teacher Lyn Law bought the building for her Montessori school. Law did a sensitive remodeling, keeping the best parts of the waiting room and also restoring the original bay window. The school is now owned by Sherry Doughty, who operates under the name Doughty-Law. Doughty has done more work on the building, carefully preserving the original look.

Not all of the Annie stations fared as well. Don Wilson, of the Ann Arbor Technical and Historical Association, says at one time every town along the route had a station, but that today there are only a handful left. A few others also have found new uses: the one at Shepherd is now a museum, while Mount Pleasant's is a microbrewery and restaurant. The advantages of saving an old building are apparent at the Doughty-Law Montessori School, where the children enjoy the railroad motif inside, while outside they climb on a slide made from an old caboose.



The AATA on the Annie?

From 1911 to 1924 passengers taking short hops on the Ann Arbor Railroad rode in gasoline-powered McKeen motor cars. If the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority has its way, they soon may do so again. Over the past year, the AATA has been exploring the idea of running specially equipped buses on a short stretch of the Ann Arbor Railroad track between downtown and Briarwood.

AATA executive director Greg Cook envisions offering service at ten-minute intervals to alleviate traffic jams in the city, particularly during rush hour and on football Saturdays. But according to Cook, he's had trouble getting rail officials to

Cook has enlisted city leaders into his campaign. Among those signing an April 1997 letter to E. O. Erickson, president of the railroad, were mayor Ingrid Sheldon, city administrator Neal Berlin, Briarwood mall manager Ted Schwarz, Downtown Development Authority director Susan Pollay, and officials from the U-M and local merchants' associations. But so far, says Cook, there's been no response from the railroad.

Erickson, for his part, said several months ago that the AATA had failed to provide a solid proposal with cost figures and other essential information. Cook insists he can't proceed until he has more information from the railroad; for example, what it might charge to use its line, what sorts of vehicles would be feasible for use, or how signals will operate. "I want to run a hundred-thousanddollar bus," Cook says. "If I have to use a million-dollar train car, then it doesn't

More recently, Cook has sought help from state and federal rail officials. "It's kind of a novel idea," says Jared Becker, an official of the state's Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation, which oversees train operations in Michigan. "I'm not aware of any concept like this in the Midwest." Becker referred Cook to federal officials for further advice.

After trying unsuccessfully to enlist the help of federal rail officials in the Midwest, Cook sent a letter to the Federal Railway Administration in Washington, D.C. When there was no response, Cook says, he put the project aside for a while. Then, unexpectedly, a federal railroad safety official walked into his office in early October.

According to Cook, the official saw nothing to prevent modified buses from zipping along the rails. "He didn't know of anything [that would prohibit the project], but thought it was a nifty idea." Now Cook's just got to figure out a way to persuade the Ann Arbor Railroad to seriously consider it.

-Jon Hall



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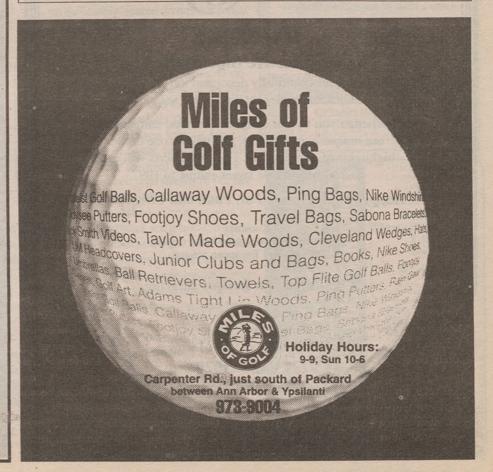
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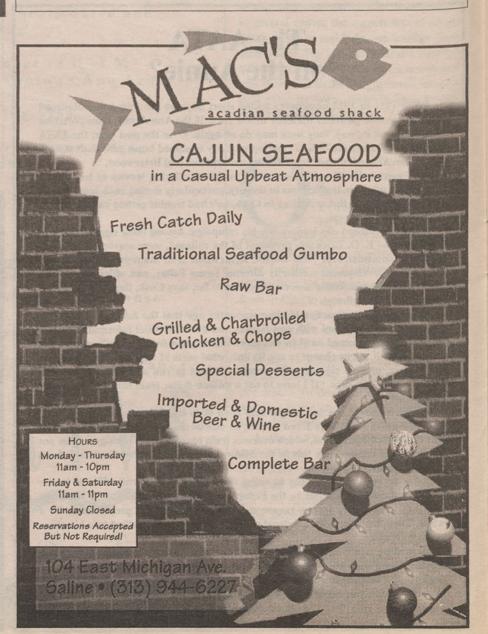
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entions of Tribute, southeast Michigan's newest topflight dining destination, are often met with a bewildered, "Huh?" or a dubious, "If it's so woo-woo, why haven't I heard of it?" From those who know the place, reactions run from the snarky ("Won the lottery, did you?") to the madly envious ("If I can't come along, I want to hear all about it!").

Tribute is a study in what you get if you can get whatever you want (sumptuous banquettes, lead crystal, fine wine . . .). The Farmington Hills restaurant is the latest property of the Wisne family, whose dining empire also includes Novi's Too Chez and Birmingham's Forté.

Surrendering your car to the mandatory valet, you're immediately struck by Victor Saroki's imposing architecture—a vaulted cathedral of Gothic arches and equilateral gables in steel and concrete. The structure contrasts and frames his interior design, with its use of deep textures, tones, and oversized geometry. You enter through a subdued velvet bar area, then pass through the glass archway of dual wine "cellars" into the single, long dining room with its art glass, Baroque draperies, Moroccan tassels, and lurid Robert Schiffman mural.

Host Mickey Bakst and executive chef Takashi Yagihashi are the yang and yin that keep Tribute humming. Mickey is L.A. suave, gracious and unimposing as he works the dining room in banded collar and ponytail. Southfield reared, he dropped out of EMU as a senior to open the Studio Cafe in California. "I lost that restaurant to alcoholism," Mickey states frankly. He's now a very-publicly recovering alcoholic.

'After I became sober, I wandered around," Mickey continues. "Then one day in 1986 I had the great pleasure of walking in Tapawingo," the highly regarded Charlevoix-area restaurant run by Harlan "Pete" Peterson. Like so many other patrons, Mickey was blown away. "I said to Pete, 'I don't care what you pay, I want

to work for you.' "The former restaurant manager worked that summer as a waiter, then ran Tapawingo's dining room for the next nine years-until the Wisne family tapped him to create Tribute.

'Me, I'm just the schmuck who put it all together," Mickey says modestly. "Takashi-there's a genius." Tribute's kitchen magician earned a degree in interior design, then went on to the Cordon Bleu. He was chef de cuisine at Chicago's classic French restaurant Ambria when Mickey found him on a tip from food writer Bill Rice. The Wisne family flew Takashi in for an audition, and halfway through the meal it was unanimous. As a bonus, Takashi brought with him a trio of up-and-coming Chicago talent: Tim Voss from the Park Avenue Cafe; Ann Stillman, sous-chef at the trendy Trio; and the gifted young pastry chef Tanya Fallon from the

Tribute's cuisine can best be described as contemporary French with Asian influences (think serious, serious West End Grill).

Tribute's cuisine can best be described as contemporary French with Asian influences (think serious, serious West End Grill). Takashi begins with an array of unusual ingredients, then applies haute cuisine techniques and haute couture presentations. Calling Tribute "a melting pot of cultures," he creates dashi rolls à la Brillat-Savarin and weaves lemon grass and nori into veal sweetbreads. His goal is to engage his diners, to resist what he calls the "funereal" stuffiness of bourgeois fine dining (i.e., Ambria). Echoing Mickey's modesty, he says, "This is just a restaurant. It's supposed to be fun, you know?"

akashi's brand of fun begins around \$50, averaging \$100 per person for three courses and wine. If you're serious about food, it is absolutely, unquestionably worth it. A meal at Tribute is savored, remembered, and enjoyed long afterward.

Even before you order appetizers, a server may drop off a complimentary bauble not on the menu: a tiny lobster risotto, creamy cubes of tail on a saffron-infused pillow of rice under a scattering of bitter watercress; or perhaps out-of-season asparagus tips in a woody fricassee of wild mushrooms, fava beans, and truffle oil. Tribute's white wine cellar is well-stocked with Chardonnays and sparkling wines, but for a lighter, refreshing starter, we chose a Sauvignon Blanc to go with the appetizers. The Spotswood '96 (most Sauvignon Blancs go young), served at cellar temperature, was trippingly pleasant, stimulating the appetite with muted oak and a brisk finish.

Takashi's appetizers are Zen gardens in miniature. Consider the eel: an eighteeninch racetrack platter, drizzled with a chartreuse herbed oil and strewn with Beluga and trout roe. In the corners are seafood delicacies: the eel, a decidedly non-Japanese napoleon, barbecued in port wine and layered with Hokkaido squash, spinach, and rice to form a standing matchbox; coins of steaky octopus on a cone of scallion-seaweed floss; a pungent rolled smoked salmon cone surrounding a stiff crème fraîche; and a fresh raw oyster on the half shell, plucked that very morning and lovingly arranged on a nest of watercress with a single pearl of giant Beluga.

Other appetizers include wontons of sweet peekytoe crab with langostino in a mildly concentrated fish broth, a tiny fire of spice nestled in each delicate skin. Fruity braised and glazed squab perch rare, bonein, on delicately seared butter-soft veal sweetbreads with a sautéed slaw of savoy cabbage and matsutake mushrooms in a burly sauce of marjoram and marrow. One teaspoon-sized pigeon drumstick is detached and placed invitingly on its own sweetbread-Takashi's nod to the traditional European presentation. The carpaccio, made with beef, venison loin, or big eye tuna, is an array of potent, tissue-paper-thin disks, fanned like the eyes of a peacock's comb and garnished with strands of oil, tart juniper berries, and red field greens.

A mound of ground celeriac cowers in the center of a broad soup bowl, topped with a tangle of flash-fried celery-root straws and a sprinkling of pancetta twigs. This tableau is then drowned by the server with a mushroom consommé, a few ounces of deep walnut liquid reduced from pounds of matsutake, porcini, and chanterelle mushrooms with a splash of duck broth. This performance is merely the soup of the day. On another visit we slurped roasted chestnuts and butternut squash, cooked down to a rich, understated soup, spiked with cognac and truffle oil, and set off by a trio of heady muscoot cheese tortellini.



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1. New Year's Eve Hotel Party Package for two

check out) • Cash Bar • Party Favors • Thai & American Buffet Dinner 7 -10pm • Champagne Toast • Midnight Brunch • \$150.00

2. New Year's Eve Party Package for two

DBL or King Size Bedroom (3pm check in & 1pm Party Favors • Cash Bar • Thai & American Buffet Dinner 7 - 10pm • Champagne Toast • Midnight Brunch. • \$65.00



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* Bakery *

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Reservations Recommended

he evening's entrees are devised in the early morning hours based on the ingredients Takashi is able to obtain. (He handles his own logistics, since no local purveyors carry such delicacies as fresh black sea urchin, live Dungeness crab, or jellyfish.) The menu is printed by noon, and the staff briefed by 5 p.m.

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There's always a simpler red meat entree for the straight carnivores and a vegetarian option for herbivores; these menu necessities, though simply and perfectly prepared, are the least inspired of Takashi's daily menu-not worth the trip. But his lamb entrees are masterstrokes of high-fusion cooking and visual composition. The loin of lamb arrives as five magenta fingers fanning out from a dollop of chickpea puree and caramelized onion. The lamb slices are belted with a soft portobello crust, and mopping up the rich saffron lamb reduction are two small canoes of firm ratatouille. Between them, a heap of sautéed munchkin veggies: pearl onions, preemie carrots, and marble-sized English breakfast radishes.

The rack of lamb is a soaring Calder stabile of chops, bones, and sides. Three plum chops are arranged on the plate to form a Mercedes seal, with a soft corn johnnycake at the center. A tender Israeli couscous spring roll completes the sculpture, standing erect like the funnels of a cruise ship in a puddle of curried lamb reduction.

The day of my last visit, Takashi secured a rare white sturgeon—a single fish that could feed the whole dining room. Finding it leaner and more delicate than the common sturgeon, he created a papillote treatment, wrapping the thick meaty fillets with phyllo-thin strips of potato, then roasting the parcel until the flesh was moist and the pastry a golden brown. The pouches were then bias-cut like penne and floated on a slick of veal sauce (veal on fish? hey, it works!) with pale green flageolet beans, white Michigan beans, leek rings, more matsutakes, and breakfast radishes.

Tribute's house wines are on a par with those in its ample wine book, but rather than order by the glass, we selected a bottle of Pinot Noir-a versatile varietal that complements meats while not competing with fish and fowl. The pinot's tannins are soft or absent due to the lighter, thinner skin of the grape (by contrast, a cabernet would almost certainly clash with the halogens in fish). Mickey apologized profusely when the red cellar was found wanting for a Santa Barbara County Byron 1994, offering instead a more esoteric pinot in the neighboring Au Bon Climat 1996, lightly spiced with excellent legs and balance.

Pheasant roulade wrapped sliced breast meat around a savory stuffing of foie gras, veal sweetbreads, and porcini. The gamey roasted rolls were then sliced like nori and laid on a bed of French lentils, ladled with au jus. Takashi's symphony of tastes, elsewhere harmonious, was here a cacophony of competing flavors. But his composition took flight in a prime veal chop, big as a hockey puck, roasted with wilted spinach and those munchkin veggies.

Dessert at Tribute is not to be missed. There is always a chocolate soufflé and a second soufflé du jour. We tried a pumpkin soufflé as well as the chocolate. They were both poufs of spun cloud with delicate crusts and interiors made moist by a last-minute drizzle of warm crème anglaise. The pumpkin was strong and smoky with a hint of ginger; the chocolate a bit grainy, but not too sweet. Pastry chef Tanya Fallon's pistachio soufflé was, if possible, even lighter than the chocolate—despite a topping of fresh ground nuts.

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The pear financier is a warm, dense

Takashi's brand of fun begins around \$50, averaging \$100 per person for three courses and wine. If you're serious about food, it is absolutely, unquestionably worth it.

yellow cake filled with fruit and decorated with a candied paper-thin pear slice. Vanilla crême brulée is a simple classic presentation of buttery crusted custard with long, stiff threads of pulled caramel jutting like antennae over the cup. The chocolate-banana tart resembles a Reese's peanut butter cup—topped with edible 24-carat gold shavings! Its entourage includes a tall curly chocolate ribbon, a soaring gingersnap obelisk, and a tiny scoop of sassafras ice cream. A plate of complimentary petit fours accompanies the check: truffles, nougats, and other dainties too tiny to share.

Before or after dinner, or between courses, the staff will eagerly give a tour of the art on display, the wine cellars (where I saw a bottle of 1970 Lafite labeled "you touch, you die"), or even the open kitchen. By all means tour Tribute's exhibition kitchen. In the middle of it all is a round eight-top "chef's table" (similar to the "kitchen table" at Chicago's celebrated Charlie Trotter's) backed by a John Dunivant mural depicting Mickey, Takashi, and the Wisne family among the clouds. While about half of Tribute's diners order the prix fixe six-course dégustation-a "tasting" menu of the day's selections—Takashi prepares a special menu for the guests who reserve the chef's table, and he often serves it himself. While the dining room plays host to Detroit magnates and a large number of outof-town (and out-of-country) -ers, the chef's table is for serious foodies only. I'll meet you there.

Tribute (810) 848–9393 31425 West Twelve Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48334 Tues.–Sat. 5:30 p.m.–closing

Quick Bites

High-end restaurants are back like a bull market with no correction in sight. At press time, Matt Prentice's Unique Restaurant Group opened its No. VI Chophouse & Lobster Bar, in Novi's Hotel Baronette. Billed as an heir to the beloved London Chop House, its name is a reference to the origin of the town's name (derived from railroaders' shorthand for "stop number six": No. VI). The No. VI will court the London Chop House's moneyed clientele with prime steaks in a high-stakes setting. Managing will be David Munro, who left Ann Arbor's Chianti Tuscan Grill last month. (Irony and incest: Chianti's owner, Jimmy Schmidt, was executive chef at the London Chop House). And next month, up the street from No. VI, the Muer-and-Mushroom team of Charles "Rocky's" Rackwitz and Steve "Golden Mushroom" Allen will open-are you ready for this?-Steve and Rocky's: an upscale marriage of New American-seafood-Chop House cuisine. Even with all Ann Arbor has to offer, Novi's not too far to go for chops.

202050

Last year Quick Bites deftly sidestepped the decades-old war of words over who invented the FragelTM. But we really stepped in it last month, appearing to take sides in the debate over which far-west bakery produces the original German soft pretzel. Owner David Cornish faxed that Baxter's Deli does indeed use the authentic pretzel recipe, passed down to baker Bill Marx from an uncle who worked at the Dexter Bakery. Meanwhile, "AARecumbent" E-mailed that Dexter Bakery had been experimenting with the recipe, adding more salt and baking them flatter; AARecumbent threatened to switch to Baxter's.

Another pretzel tip led Quick Bites to Lima Township's Lesser Farms orchard, where the superior German twists of ninety-one-year-old Glendora Jedele are sold alongside the apples, cider, and honey.

Throwing caution to the west wind, Quick Bites lauds the apple fritters at Baxter's. Any takers?

Another straggler in Quick Bites "Best Baked Goodies" poll E-mailed a nomination for Sweetwaters "rugalog," a variant of the rugola, an Italian confection of pastry dough wrapped around a sweet filling and shaped like a rocket. Sweetwaters gets their rugalogs from an exclusive supplier, and they're available nowhere else. Quick Bites likes the cinnamon-raisin variety, though they're available in apricot and chocolate, too—a sinful bargain at \$1.25. Sweetwaters opens its second cafe in Saline later this month.

Quick Bites is now on-line at http:// arborfood.com. Got a tip or a gripe? Leave voice mail at 769-3175, ext. 419, or send E-mail to dcb@msen.com.

—David C. Bloom





SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor



When there is light snow or ice

on road surfaces, 75 miles of

high volume streets, bridges,

intersections with stop signs or

traffic signals, and streets with

curves in the city are cleared by

the city's transportation division.

De-icing materials are applied to

accidents at high-risk locations.

The street clearing process takes

about five hours and may be

repeated as needed. After the

major and high-risk streets are

cleared, city crews de-ice the

local streets in the city, which

When a snowfall of four inches

plowing begins. At this point a

become involved, supplementing

or more occurs, street snow

number of city departments

the transportation division's

equipment and operators to

handle the situation. While the

clear the major streets, parks and

recreation and utilities division

crews begin working on the

residential streets. Plowing is

done on all public streets and

city-owned property; however,

all schools and privately owned

areas provide for their own de-

icing and plowing. Citizens are

advised to remove cars from

curbside parking to allow for

A city snow desk is staffed

throughout each plowing period

and during a snow emergency.

effective street plowing.

transportation division crews

requires ten to twelve hours.

provide better traction for

vehicles to help prevent

The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the city and provides information to the public about the plowing progress.

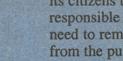
The City Administrator may declare a "snow emergency" during a severe winter storm. During a snow emergency, special parking restrictions go into effect for all streets in the city. Illegally parked cars will be towed and impounded.

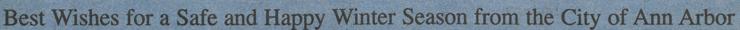
Where street parking is normally permitted, restrictions go into effect to allow curbside access to city crews to clear the street surfaces:

- · On even-numbered days, cars may not park on the even-numbered sides of these streets in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.
- · On odd-numbered days, cars may not park on the odd-numbered sides of these streets in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered sides of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses. After the street has been plowed, normal parking may be resumed on both sides of the street.
- · Designated snow emergency routes must be kept clear of parked cars at all times during the snow emergency.

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the city depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width of the public sidewalk. This enables people of all ages and physical condition to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. The City Council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks. The city reminds owners or occupants of nonresidentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am shall be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such sidewalk it shall be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Ice should be removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property shall remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting. Ice shall be treated and removed as mentioned above. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.





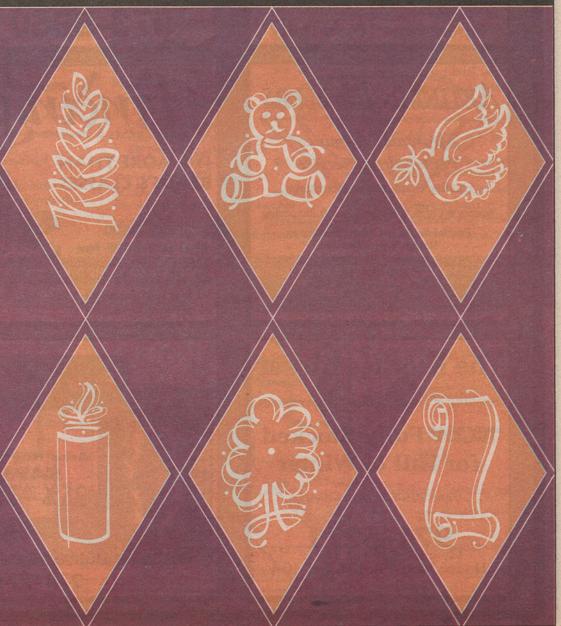
Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

1997

Ann Arbor Observer



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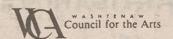
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- · Parent & teacher resources
- · Toys for education & imagination
- Activities & events

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Council for the Arts

Dec. 6 & 7, 12-5 pm

Open Studios, Art Spaces, and Art Events Throughout the Area

DOWNTOWN DEXTER

1. Elaine's Gallery of Fine Art 426.1581 Prints, originals, framing. 8063 Main St.

Whitney Thompson: Custom furniture.

2. Philip Ponvert - Furniture Hand-made furniture & design. 3045 Broad St.

3. Broad Street Artists' Collective
426.4228

Jean Magnano Bollinger: Drawings Flizabeth Barick Fall: Metals Ylu-Keung Lee: Ceramics Shirley Moraes: Jewelry Annette Siffin: Ceramics Elaine S. Wilson: Paintings

CHELSEA

4. Darwin's Stained Glass Studio & Antique **Slot Machines** Leaded glass, lamps. 9080 Beeman Rd.

WEST/NORTH ANN ARBOR

741.4205 5. Tu'Shea Originals Ceramics, paintings. 5535 Cambridge Club C.

213.0017 6. Motawi Tileworks Ceramic tiles. 33 N. Staebler, Suite 2

7. Mystic Visions Sculptures, masks, jewelry. 509 Spring St., #1 327,1349

8. Susan Wedemeyer Painting, jewelry, raku. 604 Miller, Apt. 3 9. The Michigan Guild 662.3382

Contemporary Arts & Crafts. 118 N. 4th Ave. 213.2745 10. Animality Animal-motif art. 303 Detroit St., Suite 107

DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR

11. Crawford Studio Printmaking and paintings. 410 W. Huron

12. Technology Center (Performance Network) 410 W. Washington

Marion T. Marzolf: Handwovens, dolls, #40. 913.1008.

Estyn Hulbert: Printmaking, textiles, #18. Kathleen Moore: Voice teaching/music therapy studio, #20B, 668.8146.

Jane Bunge Noffke: Figurative bronze sculpture and clay studio, #20A.

Janie Paul: Landscape paintings and prints, #29, 994.3922.

Bev Walker: Colorist landscape canvases, #21, 761.6179.

Mary Slater-Kenny: Mixed-media/special

13. 16 Hands Fine crafts, art & gifts. 216 N. Main St.

14. STORYBEADS 665,6570 Beads strung to tell stories. 113 1/2 W. Liberty

☆. Ann Arbor Art Center Gifts and children's programs. 117 N. Liberty

15. 4 Designers-Art to Wear Upstairs at 201 E. Liberty, Suite #4

Jill Ault: Applique Betsy Duwe: Hand-dyed garments, dolls Rebecca Lambers: Couture Naomi Landers: Jewelry, metal & fiber

16. Let's Pretend Dramatic Playclothes at Generations Children's Fantasy Clothes. 337 S. Main

17. J. T. Abernathy Pottery 663.7004 Functional/decorative pottery. 212 S. State Cherie' Haney: raku pottery goddess

Functional ceramics. 8 Nickels Arcade

761.8253 19. Randy Parrish Mosaic windows, drawings. 240 Nickels Arcade

MAIN/STADIUM, ANN ARBOR

663.4970 20. The Potter's Guild Potter's Guild Sale, 10-5. 201 Hill

995.1627 21. Higher's Pottery Functional pottery. 829 S. Main

930.9783 22. Sarah Lee - Teraphim 632 S. First St.

Sarah Lee: Polymer jewelry. Helen Bunch: Organic sterling jewelry Bill Gross: Hand-dyed clothing

995.1753 23. Anne James Breiholz Paintings, prints. 2024 Audubon Dr.

24. Jane Coates 668,7656 Oils of flowers & gardens. 1834 Mershon

761.5616 25. Carol Morris' Rose Ave. Mixed media from 10 artists. 912 Rose Ave.

769.0653 26. Edith Bookstein Costume Design. 1547 Washtenaw

27. Frame Factory Oils, jewelry, unique art gifts. 2903 Carpenter

YPSILANTI

971.8540 28. Nancy Stevenson Figurative bronze sculptures. 113 Pearl St.

29. Lisa Knox

Paintings & drawings. 113 Pearl St.

487,1268 30. Ford Gallery at EMU Alumnai Invitational. EMU, Ford Gallery Hall

PLYMOUTH RD., ANN ARBOR

995.1681 31. Susan Falcone's Nature oriented studio. 7400 Plymouth Rd.

997.7111 32. Trillium Treasures Consignment art. 5750 Plymouth Rd.

994.1528 33. Emery Pottery Raku pottery. 1202 Traver

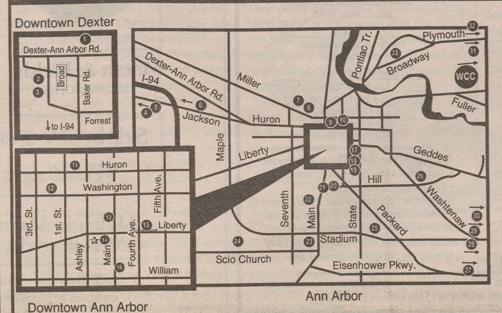
WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

4800 East Huron Dr., Student Center Laurie Carpenter: Land/skyscape in oil Philip Clevenger: Kilnformed glass, ceramics Alicia Conger: Hand colored clays, raku Judy Enright: Oil paintings, woodblock prints Debra Golden: Watercolors & fabric painting Lynn Grammatico: Oils, prints, cloth dolls Sherry Hayne: B&W landscape portraits Phyllis Hochlowski - Earthforms: Transparent watercolor, florals, earthforms Kathleen Kazmierski: Mixed media Doris Malfese: Photography The Quiescent Photon: Photographic Art W. K. Kellogg Eye Center, U of M: Ophthalmic (eye) photography Raymond Masters/Brian Steimel and other

puppeteers: Puppetry and related arts Sharon Wysocki: Oils on bookcovers Lauren Zinn: Decorative fabric art & Judaica Ann Arbor Art Center at WCC Student Center

Free Children Art Workshops, 2-5 pm

Complete listings available by calling the WCA at 734/484.4882 or AACVB at 734/995.7281, or by visiting the AACVB at www.annarbor.org.





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Norton Durant Flowers Tom Thompson Flowers

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Frames Ann Arbor Framing Co. Graphic Arts Wholesalers

Furniture Dixboro General Store

Gifts **Country Gifts** Crown House of Gifts Hollander's Papers & Desk Items John Leidy Shops Kitchen Port Little Dipper Candle & Bath Shoppe Marsh & Fields & Mudpuddles Toys

Pen in Hand

Wilkinson Luggage Shop Home

Anderson Paint Ann Arbor Paint & Wallpaper Delux Drapery & Shade Fingerle Lumber Company Gross Electric

Hotel

Jewelers

Schlanderer & Sons Sevfried Diamond Jewelers Pets

Ann Arbor Pet Supply University Aquarium & Pet Shop Recreation

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Argo Canoe Livery Bryant Community Center

Buhr Park Ice Rink/Pool Cobblestone Farm Fuller Park Gallup Park Canoe Livery Huron Hills Golf Course/Ski Center Leslie Park Golf Course Leslie Science Center

Mack Indoor Pool Veterans Memorial Park Ice Rink/Pool

Restaurants

Afternoon Delight Amer's Coffee House Amer's Delicatessen Ashlev's Cafe Marie

Cafe Zola Exotic Cuisine & Bakeries (Syrian Food) Gandy Dancer

Gratzi Heidelberg Kerrytown Bistro Macaroni Grill

Maude's Mediterrano Restaurant

Metzger's BD's Mongolian BBQ Mountain Jack's

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·Ann Arbor Commerce Bank, 2930 S. State St.

· Comerica Banks at 101 N. Main St., and 1969 Stadium Blvd. locations

· Old Kent Bank, 400 E. Eisenhower Pkwy

· University Bank, 959 Maiden Lane

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HOLIDAY DISPLAYS DOWNTOWN

as recently as the 1950s, the imposing line of storefronts along South Main Street was relieved by a peaceful patch of lawn and a handsome Greek Revival house. It was the home of shopkeeper Bertha Muehlig, and the site of a fondly remembered holiday display. Every year, Muehlig, owner of Muehlig's dry goods, worked with the Chamber of Commerce to set up a Nativity scene in her front yard.

Muehlig's home and crèche are often mentioned when longtime Ann Arborites recall Christmas shopping downtown in the pre-mall era. Fay Muehlig, Bertha Muehlig's niece by marriage, remembers "a baby in a little crib with Mary and Joseph, two or three feet high." After Bertha died in 1955, the Nativity scene was put up in front of the courthouse on the corner of Huron and Main for a few years—until concerns about the separation of church and state ended religious displays on public property.

For most of this century, Main Street was lined with department stores that mounted special window displays to entertain holiday shoppers. Old-timers recall being especially enthralled by the moving displays: a revolving tree in Mack and Company's window, a Shirley Temple doll playing the organ at Goodyear's, and an electric train going around and around in the window of Muehlig and Lanphear's hardware store (co-owner Edward Muehlig was Bertha Muehlig's brother).

Mack and Company, on the corner of Liberty and Main, was the premier department store in Ann Arbor before the Depression. Former employee Mabel Sager remembers that the store's buyers would "go to New York and Chicago and buy real nice stuff for Christmas." The late Edith Staebler Kempft remembered in a 1982 interview that the store always had a live Christmas tree. "They had a large music box imported from Germany," she said. "They put the tree in the middle. When the music was on, the tree moved. You could see it from the Liberty Street entrance." Helen Schmid remembers a Santa who roamed around the store, talking to children about what they wanted for Christmas.

On the other side of Main Street, Muehlig and Lanphear's hardware store would set up its electric train. "Kids would have their noses up to the window," Marian Zwinch remembers. "Trains were out of the range of most people's pocketbooks." Fay Muehlig agrees, remembering that it wasn't unusual to get "an engine one Christmas and a passenger car or freight car the next."

Goodyear's, located in the next block of Main between Washington and Huron, eventually replaced Mack and Company as the most prominent downtown department store. In the 1950s, it was the first store to introduce free gift wrapping at Christmas. "We hired young girls who sang carols as they wrapped," former Goodyear's manager Donna Moran recalls. "They were from the high school a cappella choir and wore cute little outfits." Their performance was a big hit, with long lines, but after a few years they discontinued the singing because "it interfered with the wrapping," Moran recalls. "It was hard to sing and listen to what kind of paper the customer wanted."

On Kids Night, former Goodyear's employee Jean Brumley remembers, "We set up the cafeteria with different items, all low prices that the kids could buy for their parents. The mothers would bring them in and then go off."

For years, a highlight of the holiday season was seeing and hearing the doll in Goodyear's window "play" Christmas music on a pipe organ. "We always watched to see when they would put it in," Fay Muehlig remembers. "It was a fixture of Christmas." Speakers piped the music outside for passersby.

-Grace Shackman

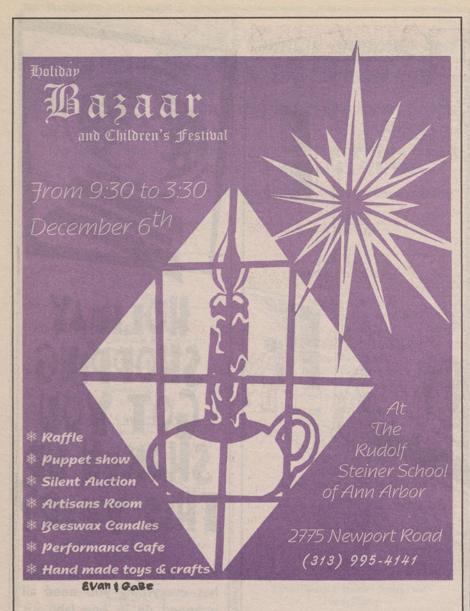


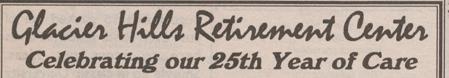
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Oh yeah... all this great stuff makes darned good holiday gifts, too.



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72 ANN ARBOR OBSERVER December 1997

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THE HARLEM NUTCRACKER

NEW TRADITION

am a "Nutcracker" nut. It all goes back to happy years in Manhattan, where the New York City Ballet version of the fairy tale was, and still is, a holiday ritual. In those pre-Lincoln Center days, you could afford to go several times a season to enjoy Tchaikovsky's romantic music, the Christmas tree that grew right before your eyes, the seven-headed mouse king and his puffy troops, the waltzing snowflakes-those demure Rockettes exquisitely en pointe in a blizzard—and the dazzling second-act divertissements. The magic lingered, and stepping out afterward into the cold, clear New York City evening, you found yourself exchanging smiles with strangers. Honest. It was altogether joyous.

You don't mess with memories like that. But I did, because I knew what Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn had done with Tchaikovsky's lush melodies (you can't listen to their recording of the "Nutcracker Suite" with a straight face). Last year, when the University Musical Society announced the premiere of *The Harlem Nutcracker*, an all-new ballet set by New York choreographer Donald Byrd to that witty jazz score, curiosity overcame nostalgia. Thank heaven! I would hate to have missed this fond, exuberant attack on tradition.

In the original E. T. A. Hoffmann tale, Clara is a beautiful young girl with a prince in her future; the Harlem version's Clara is a beautiful old woman with a full life past. In both versions, during an act-one family gathering, Clara receives a magic nutcracker that will come to life and defend her in a battle with monsters: the young Clara's nutcracker becomes a prince who fights the mouse king and his minions; the old Clara's takes the form of her beloved late husband, who fights the lumpy ghouls that accompany Death. Instead of the Magic Castle of the traditional version, Harlem's brassy, neon-bright Club Sweets is the setting for act two's divertissements, witty nightclub takeoffs on the festival of sugar plum solos and romantic pas de deux.

Club Sweets *jumps* with sheer fun. Hyperactive doormen, a leaping waiter, a sultry cigarette girl, and a magician take the

audience from laughter to awe and back. There are even bodybuilders, wearing scanty bikinis and naughty smirks, who flex gorgeously burnished biceps, pecs, abs—and glutes. The Sugar Plum Fairy here is Sugar Rum Cherry, hot and haughty.

Last year, some of the evening's riches were local. Detroit-area children danced as family members in act one, local gospel groups sang, and the jazz musicians were also from the area: Marcus Belgrave and equally excellent brass, reed, wind, bass, and percussion players. Conductor David Berger added more than an hour of his own jazz adaptations of Tchaikovsky's music in the spirit of the Ellington-Strayhorn suite.

The apotheosis in *The Harlem Nut-cracker* takes the dying Clara from the bosom of her family to the Light at the Top of the Stairs on the arm of her beloved. Corny? Could have been, but I found it tender and touching. Even the many children in the audience, giddy from the rich, romping turns of Club Sweets, understood it and fell quiet. Leaving the Power Center on the arm of my own beloved, amid the chatter of a happy audience, exchanging smiles with strangers, I knew we had found a new holiday ritual. Altogether joyous, a delight.

-Mary Matthews

The Harlem Nutcracker returns to the Power Center on Wed.—Fri., Dec. 10–12, at 8 p.m., and Sat. & Sun., Dec. 13 & 14, at 2 & 8 p.m. Call 764–2538.

Other holiday highlights:

1997 Christmas Light Display. Nightly through Dec. 31, 6–10 p.m. Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. Some 900,000 lights are used to decorate the trees and grounds of Domino's Farms in this annual drive-through holiday show. Also, indoor displays and entertainment. 930–4430.

Christmas Crèche Display. Dec. 5–7, 10 a.m.–9 p.m. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Family-oriented exhibit of some 800 Nativity scenes from around the world. 665–7852, 668–2477, 663–3699 (days).

9th Annual Ypsilanti Festival of Lights. Dec. 5–7, 12–14, 19–21, 24, 25, & 31, 6–10 p.m. Riverside Park (off Cross St.), Depot Town, Ypsilanti. More than 50,000 lights on trees and in illuminated displays. 483–4444.

20th Annual Boar's Head Festival. Dec. 5 & 6, 7:30 p.m. & Dec. 7, 4 p.m. Concordia

College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Traditional musical pageant from medieval England allegorizing Christ's victory over the forces of sin and death. 995–4612.

6th Annual "Art Day." Dec. 6 & 7, noon-5 p.m. Special displays, exhibits, and demonstrations at galleries and studios throughout Washtenaw County. 484–4882, 995–7281.

Handel's "Messiah." Dec. 6, 8 p.m. & Dec. 7, 2 p.m. Hill Auditorium. The UMS Choral Union and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra perform Handel's much-loved religious oratorio. 764–2538, (800) 221–1229.

Community "Messiah" Sing. Dec. 14, 1 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. All invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous oratorio. 665–5964.

Holiday Brass. Dec. 14, 3:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Seasonal concert by the Galliard Brass Ensemble, an award-winning local brass quintet. 662–5146.

Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash. Dec. 14, 8 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw. Pianists perform ragtime, jazz, boogie-woogie, and blues. 665–6158.

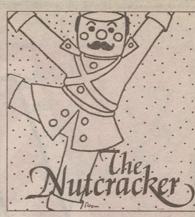
The Nutcracker. Dec. 19–21, 2 & 8 p.m. Power Center. The Ann Arbor Ballet Theater's annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. 763–TKTS.

A Boychoir Christmas. Dec. 20, 3 & 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. The Boychoir of Ann Arbor, a local ensemble of 45 boys directed by founder Tom Strode, in its 11th annual Christmas concert. 663–5377.

New Year Jubilee. Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m.-midnight. An alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration featuring numerous local entertainment acts in and around Ypsilanti's Riverside Park. 483–4444.

6th Annual New Year's Eve "Jazz Revisited" Concert. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Power Center. WUOM radio personality Hazen Schumacher hosts an evening of jazz and blues by James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band, saxophonist and clarinetist Franz Jackson, and vocalist Banu Gibson. Sponsored by Michigan Radio. 763–TKTS, (248) 645–6666.

See the Observer Calendar, p. 103, for a complete list of December events.



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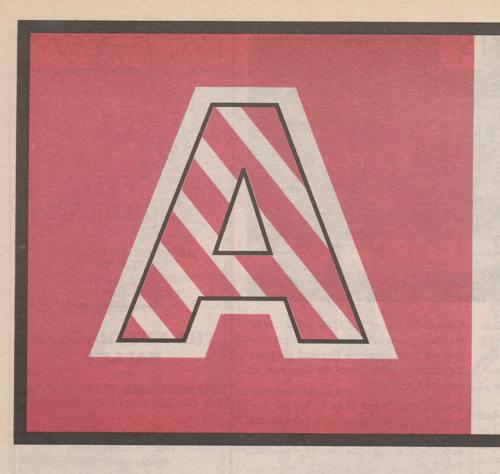
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Open 10am-2pm on Dec. 24th;
see store for details on sale items







A Shopper's Holiday in Ann Arbor

A sampler of gifts around town

by Conner Manheim

his just in: the official buzzwords for this year's holiday shopping season are fleece, the 1950s, Curious George, velvet dresses, the 1960s, hemp, aliens, fleece, the 1970s, Star Wars, Beanie Babies, and . . . fleece.

This was my third year pounding the pavement in search of holiday shopping ideas, and it was a good time (although a bit frustrating: try visiting nearly 100 stores and buying almost nothing). How does one shopper pick gifts that Observer readers may want to give their family and friends? Easy. Choose stuff that's interesting, unusual, particularly beautiful-and fun to write about. It was impossible to write about every store, and I offer no guarantees of pleasing everyone. I came, I shopped, I coveted, I wrote. And somewhere in there, I ate six Godiva chocolates in one sitting.

tore myself away from a cup of hot cider at the Observer offices and sprinted across the parking lot to Kerrytown, my first stop. Marsh & Fields Natureworks, up on the second floor, has a lot of nature-themed merchandise. If pizza deliverers have trouble finding

your house, pick up some new house numbers; three to five ceramic digits fit into a hand-painted ceramic frame (\$68-\$74; the store will do the grout work for you for an additional \$4). I also liked the flannel nightshirts (\$38) decorated with bears, sheep, monkeys, and moose, and a strange, flat stone (\$24) engraved with a single word: nevermind. Put it in your garden for when you get tired of weeding. The rolls and rolls of wrapping paper across the hall at Hollander's are a pretty, postmodern feast for the eye. Go look, and you'll never buy last-minute wrapping paper at the drugstore again.

Alexandra's, down the hall, has a whole lot of cushy velvet and fleece crafted into elegant jackets. They also carry sculptural

stained-glass hand mirrors

Toy Sore Tour

When I was a kid, there was a show in which children competed to win shopping sprees in a gigantic toy store. The winners were filmed piling stuff into shopping carts, while I drooled quietly in my living room. There's something about a good toy store

that still brings out the saliva in me, and Ann Arbor has plenty to choose from.

Generations, downtown on Main Street, is always a worthwhile stop. They play good music and have an imaginative selection of toys, books, puzzles, and more. Kids familiar with the Arthur series from public television will be interested in a new line of books and stuffed animals taken from the show. Generations has a complete selection. There are soft plush versions of Arthur (he's an aardvark, in case you couldn't tell-I couldn't), his sister D. W., and friend Francine. Books range from \$14.95 to \$15.95, and the plush critters themselves come in two sizes (\$15 and \$24). Problems with bedtime fears? Pick up Go Away Monsters!, a new cooperative board game for ages three and up, by Gamewright, for \$18.95.

Campus Bike and Toy, on William, has old-world charm (it's been in town for over 50 years) and a contemporary spirit. Bikes, of course, give the place that special smell, but there's a lot of other stuff as well, and everything's reasonable. Check out the Glow in the Dark Discovery Puzzles for \$7.99. You'll find great stocking stuffers here, including a tiny Mr. Potato Head key chain for \$4.99 and Deluxe Nerd Glasses for \$1.99.

Out at Kay-Bee Toy & Hobby Shop,

propagated to an alarming degree: there's American Indian Barbie and Arctic Barbie (each \$24.99); Angel Princess Barbie (15.99); Dentist Barbie, shown on the package saying, "Let's brush! Great checkup!" (\$19.99); and Hula Hair Barbie ("Style my beautiful sunlit hair with flowers!"). She's \$16.99.

Magic Carpet Books and Wonders, next to Whole Foods on East Stadium, is quite an oasis:

a sane, friendly toy store with helpful clerks. I particularly liked the Jumping Jack wall hangings, in the shape of goofy animals (\$37.99). There are tons of books, games, and puzzles as well.

Toys R Us, out at Arborland, can be intimidating: aisles and aisles of everything you can imagine, stacked floor to ceiling, and throngs of determined-look-



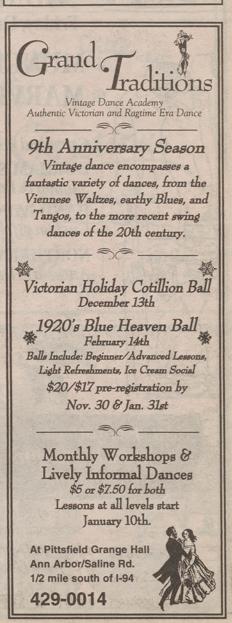
ing kiddies. But perseverance can pay off here, and the price is often right. Don't wait till the last minute!

Up in the Traver Village shopping center, White Rabbit Toys can't keep the Ball Party Roll Around Tower in stock. This contraption for wee ones involves plastic balls dropping into a spiraling tower. Pick one up for \$19.95. They've also got an elaborate wooden puppet theater (puppets not included) for \$115. Southsiders, be sure to check out the new White Rabbit in Woodland Plaza, next to **Great Harvest Bread Company.**

Mudpuddles used to be its own store, but it now shares space with Marsh & Fields Natureworks, upstairs in Kerrytown. Plenty of goodies here, including scary plastic dinos and other animals for a mere \$7.

Learning Express is one of the educational toy stores that seem to have sprung up everywhere in the last year or two. It's in Westgate Shopping Center, next to T J Maxx, and is owned by Aristoplay founder Jan Barney Newman, and one of its highlights is a full line of Aristoplay games-historical games, anatomy and geography games, and the ArtDeck game, which will allow your budding connoisseur to "match paintings of 13 modern masters to artist cards.'









Shoppers Holiday

by Ann Arborite Carol Johnson for \$72 and \$98. I nearly lost it over a wool and velvet full-length coat by Linda Richards, out of New York City. With its swirly A-line skirt and prim collar and cuffs, it would look really great on me. It's \$398. Would someone buy it for me, please?

It's one-stop shopping for seasonal doormats at Regrets Only. The shop has snowmen, penguins, and festive plaid designs crafted from coir (that's beaten-up coconut hulls, in case you didn't know) for \$25. And just across the way is Vintage to Vogue, where Crispina mittens, made of stiff wool felt (complete with a string, so ya don't lose 'em) made me want to be a kid again—just for a minute. They're unbelievably cute and cost \$25. Matching floppy hats are \$58. You may want to snuggle up with Nick & Nora flannel pj's covered with 1950s-era prints of breakfast, skiers, or people talking on the phone. They're \$68.



I don't drink hard liquor, but the martini shakers and glasses by Conrad at Kitchen Port made me wish I did. They're whimsical and elegant at the same time and cost \$14.95 and \$8.95, respectively. Carpal tunnel sufferers on your gift list may appreciate the battery-operated pepper mill for \$15.95. Downstairs, the Amy of Hand-Painted by Amy sat in her colorful store-ette and showed me her painted frames, switchplate covers, and boxes. They range in price from \$12 to \$48. Here's an idea: buy plain martini glasses upstairs at Kitchen Port and bring 'em down to Amy. She'll paint them up any way you like for about \$15 a glass. Just don't put them in the dishwasher.

Across the hall, in Little Dipper, I found loads of nice candles as well as a display of Wishing Pyramids that you hold in the palm of your hand. Open your pyramid, insert your written wish, then sit back and wait. The Bruise Gallery is always fun to visit. I was intrigued by the folk art of

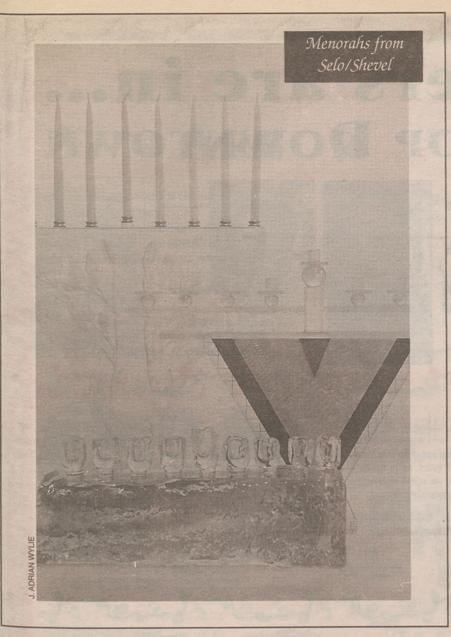
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Darius David, a painter from Dominica who makes oddly stiff but lush landscapes of his native land. If you have \$3,000-\$55,000, you can buy one. The gallery also has plenty of delightful Howard Finster items, painted furniture, drums, and more. I'll forgive the "N" in Fashions-N-Things because of all of their bright and comfortable sweaters for women. And those of us who routinely ruin our 100 percent wool clothing by washing it in hot water and putting it in the dryer will be vindicated by the rack of colorful "boiled wool" jackets in the \$90 range.

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I headed south down Fourth
Avenue in a driving rain and
ducked into Crazy Wisdom for
a brief and soothing respite. I
found the Cat Yoga Calendar,
which proves that cats will
sleep anywhere, even on a
woman doing a yoga position. It
costs \$12.95. "Don't bong the kidneys"—that's the caveat on a \$17 box of
Bongers, ancient massage tools that gently
... bong you. CW also has Ann Arbor
Speaks, a \$13 CD featuring ten local
poet-performance artists, including my
friend Decky Alexander. Hi, Decky.

Next stop was Farah Rose Creations, where my daughter got her ear cartilage pierced—but that's an-

Beaded headdress from Farah Rose Creations

beaded shawls "handmade by Chinese students" (\$72-\$109). She'd also just received a large selection of silver

other story. Rose, fresh from a piercing,

stopped everything to show me some fancy

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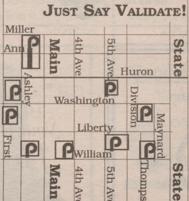
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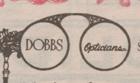
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December 5, 7:00-9:00PM Midnight Madness! Featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus; Raffin Street Organ in front of Grace's.

122 S. Main; Ann Arbor Boys Choir and others.

December 12, 7:00-9:00PM Enjoy Our Ladies Madrigal Singers; Thomas Carolers; Harmony 4 Fun; and the Community High School Jazz Ensemble and others.

December 19, 7:00-9:00PM Featuring Mutual Accord, County Connection Choir; Raffin Street Organ in front of Grace's, 122 S. Main; CHS Jazz Band and others.

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Herald Angels: A Service of Music and Readings especially for Advent and Christmas.

Sunday, November 30, 1997 at 4 p.m.



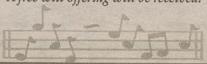
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Shopper's Holida H

and semiprecious-stone poison ringsused, legend has it, by women in dangerous situations. Rose quipped, "And here's an alien ring for the person who thinks she's been kidnapped." Send one to Scully. They cost \$18-\$48.

Never know what to say? Pick up a copy of Hard Boiled: Great Lines from Classic Noir Films at Aunt Agatha's bookstore. Plenty of good stuff next door at Common Language Bookstore as well. Around the corner at Sam's on Liberty, I admired a Leatherman Mini Tool-the "World's Smallest Full-Size Pliers" for \$39.95—and a host of small starter Swiss Army knives in a fetching array of colors.

ime for Main Street. At Falling Water I found some very nice Turkish tapestry shoulder bags (\$32), perfect for that laptop I don't have. And for the discerning jewelry buyer looking for something different, there's the Zealandia line of pins and necklaces crafted from silver and fossilized walrus tusk (\$59-\$127).

I'm not going to try to tell Ann Arborites what books to buy, but I never ever skip Afterwords, where a little money can equal a lot of books.

At Selo/Shevel Gallery I was intrigued by tiny silver fish pins—very realistic. The saleswoman assured me that they were, in fact, real alewives from Lake Michigan that had died a natural and very populated death, then had been pickled in polyurethane by artists. I remembered that I didn't like alewives much on my honeymoon, but hard, shiny, odorless, and not underfoot, these had a certain je ne sais quoi. They cost \$13 apiece and a portion of the price goes to environmental groups. Also on display were magnificent glass menorahs, one feisty and colorful (\$255), and the other cool and elegant (\$360).

Some of the best salespeople in town can be found at Mir's Oriental Rugs. I know this well, after stopping by to browse last spring and leaving with two rugs that I still like a lot. Mir's has a nice line of area rugs patterned after the styles of famous artists. I saw a Kandinsky, a Klimt, and a Matisse that range in price from \$500 to \$800 and are absolutely beautiful.

Four Directions is filled with the sound of running water. I looked at a video called "You Can Play the Cedar Flute with Odell Borg" (\$17.95) and thought maybe I could. The flute itself is a lovely creation (\$89).

I'm sorry, but I just wanna play Flintstones 3-D Chess. Confused? Go to Wilkinson Luggage Shop and take a look. I don't even play chess, but if someone gives me this, I might learn. Collected Works, always rich in funky, fun, nice-totouch clothes for women, was in the midst of a huge sale and the crowds were rabid, so I only managed a quick covet of some jellybean tights (\$12).

Bookends from Jules, across the street, is the

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place to shop for big, ultra-cool sofas and armchairs. They're pricey, but without a doubt worth it. For a quick fix, you might want to pick up some armchair bookends for \$60. Timbuktu Station, just behind Jules, is full of great winter wear, all colors and styles, and Atys, across the hall, has industrial-strength aluminum wall clocks that I really liked. Imported from England, they cost \$68.75-\$97.50.

Peaceable Kingdom has a new line of Nicholas Mosse Pottery from Ireland: mugs, pitchers, and bowls in reds, blues, and browns, with a distinctive holiday look. Nice.

Around the corner, I spent a good half hour wanting things at Voilà. Cutest of all was a short, red wool sweater-jacket by NYBased (\$138). It's got detachable fakefur black cuffs and collar. And over on the east wall, there's a sconce overflowing with soft squishy gloves of indiscernible, highly sensual fabric (\$22 a pair).

love shopping State Street. It's manageable, eclectic, and a hot cup of coffee is always within easy reach. I plunged in at Bivouac and found Beaver State Indian Blankets (\$148) crafted of thick wool and cotton, in a passionate array of colors and patterns.

Van Boven makes me feel old-world and elegant, even though I'm neither. Where else in town can you buy limitededition silk braces (we're talking suspenders, folks), complete with hunting scene, put out exclusively for the International Society of Brace Collectors, for a mere \$140? I cannot even tell you where these braces are made because the lo-

cation of the factory is kept TOP SE-CRET. Too James Bondish? Pick up some J. J. Weston faucet cufflinks (\$45).

Speaking of menswear, Marty's Menswear is sporting a revamped look these days. They say they're the largest purveyor of Hilfiger

and Nautica stuff downtown now. I liked an NDX fake leather bomber jacket for \$175. At Elmo's on State, Curious George Tshirts (\$16.95-\$21.95) made me feel like

a kid again.

I arrived at Elle Silver Fox just in time to peruse a brand-new shipment of rings from India and Bali. They're

silver, with semiprecious stones and range from

Don't get me started on Kaleidoscope. I could spend hours there just looking at stuff and talking to Jeff, the owner. Get

a hold of yourself in a Hand Chair (a replica of the 1960s originals) that retails for \$175. You can pick up a vintage Pez dispenser for \$3-\$100, a pair of C3PO Star Wars Clark Shoes, still in the box, for \$250, or any of a number of naughty novels from the 1950s (try The Girl in the Spike-Heeled Shoes or Savage Breed). Ho.

At Urban Outfitters, you can buy a fiber optic light set for \$24, or a Sweet KeAloha Lovely Hawaiian Dashboard Hula Doll for \$8. Down the block at Shaman Drum Bookshop, I was intrigued by "A Shaker Sister's Drawings," art depicting wild plants by Cora Helena Sarle, a Shaker who lived in New Hampshire in the late 1800s.

In Nickels Arcade, Hoffmann Studio has expanded its bugs-under-glass selection. Do you know what a Titanus Gigantus is? You may want to find out. The salesclerk told me it can break a pencil in half. It's very dead, very gorgeous (in a buggy way) and costs \$2,125. Oh, yeahplenty of amazing jewelry, too. Chris Triola has the usual array of indescribably artful sweaters—the latest line is inspired by the designer's recent trip to Morocco. There are also warm and colorful scarves



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Every Sunday from 1-4pm you can:

- · Play with fun toys!
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Sunday, November 30

"Construction Zone"

Lego, K'Nex, Erector, and Capsela Building Sets.

Sunday, December 7

"Clownin' Around"

Klutz Press Books, Cascade & Russ Berrie Puppets, Applause Sesame Street Characters, Nerf Shooting Gallery.

Storytelling with Dorothy Levy and a visit from "Rozee the Clown".

Sunday, December 14

"Rainy Day Activities"

Playskool, Milton Bradley, Creativity for Kids, and our craft department.

Sunday, December 21

"Children at Play"

Playmobil, Fisher Price, and Little Tikes Playsets.

HOURS:

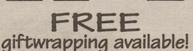
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VISA



9:30am to 9pm

12pm to 5pm





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Greetings!

We will once again be selling our fine selection of Christmas trees at two locations. Our locations are:

- The used car lot of Ann Arbor Buick-Suzuki at 3165 Washtenaw (near Huron Parkway) and at...
- The Boulevard Plaza on West Stadium, just North of the Post Office

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Sized from 3 foot tabletops to majestic 15 footers. We also have a fine selection of wreaths (decorated and undecorated) roping (garland) and tree stands. Bring in your stand and we will fresh cut, prune and fit your tree to your stand. Tree delivery is also available

> This year we offer these discounts:

10% to Senior Citizens

10% to anybody who wears a sombrero

10% to anyone shorter than my friend Phil

5% for a good Holiday joke (our discretion) big prize for the season's best joke

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Happy Holidays to All! From the Tree Dudes & Dudette

This year we are sharing a portion of our sales with a local charity.





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Shopper's Holida

for \$55. A portion of the profits go to breast cancer research at the U-M Cancer Center. Caravan, at the west end of the arcade, is a-jam with beautiful goodies, including \$18-\$50 woolen snowmen by Collectible Creations.

Heading down Liberty Street, I stopped in at Suwanee Springs Leather and ran my fingers over their leather pants (boot and regular cut) from Montreal (\$260). Nice fuzzy shearling slippers, too, for \$48-\$70. I couldn't pick any one thing at Kioti; there are loads of beautiful sweaters, vests, and dresses, funky and elegant.

It's crèche central at the John Leidy stores, where a ten-piece manger scene can be had for a mere \$45. At SKR Classical, you can pick up the complete works of Ludwig Van Beethoven-eighty-seven CDs plus a book-for the all-inclusive price of \$1,130. Too much? Make 'em an offer. Really. Orchid Lane has a lovely selection of pastel-colored perfume bottles in the \$10-\$20 range.

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Borders Books and Music has some truly great finds: The Jewish Spirit: A Celebration of Stories and Art, edited by Ellen Frankel (\$45), could easily attain heirloom status. In the kids' department, I got an uneasy chuckle out of the "Grossology" books by Sylvia Banzei, in which various bodily functions, and a lot more, are thoroughly explained in terms that will delight certain young people I might know.

ver on South University, Middle Earth is like a sun god around which other stores orbit. Creativity is applied to every aspect of the store, from the buying to the in-store displays to the outrageous, famous window dressings. Holiday shopping gets furious there in the final days of December, so get there early for the good stuff. The gigantic Sabonete Claus Porto Aromatico soaps (\$11.95) made me want to lather up then and there. They also have a nice selection of salt and pepper shakers: dog and doghouse (\$16), milk and chocolate milk (\$18), and realistic corncob ends (\$15). The magnificent bead-and-shell Yoruba chieftain's belt (\$200) made me want to be a West African chieftain, or at least play one on TV.

Across the way, in the Galleria Shops on South University, I stopped in at Campus Collectibles. Little Tommy or Susie will love the Attack Spawn monster action figure ("with climbing action, grappling hooks and snap-on hand arsenal") for \$17.99. JUST KIDDING-DO NOT BUY THIS FOR A YOUNG CHILD! And upstairs at Tower Records you can pick up Gidget movies on videotape for \$10. Farther down South University, at Earport, I found my favorite South U gift: large, softly glowing night-lights in the shape of the moon and stars (\$36-\$55). I didn't see anything else like them in town.



tadium Boulevard and Maple Road are full of mainstream stores, as well as some detours into the unusual. Ice fishing has legions of devotees an hour or so north of here, and at Dunham's Sporting Goods in Maple Village, you can arrange to introduce someone to this highly contemplative sport this holiday season. The Frabill "Ice Ranger" one-

person shelter features padded seats and hot-drink holders; other shelters, with seating up to four, are in stock, too.

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In a constantly changing world, it's good to know that Chia Pets are still available at holiday time. Frank's Nursery and Crafts, with locations at either end of the Stadium-Washtenaw strip, has a good selec-

tion. You can also pick up the Farmer's Almanac (\$3.99) while you're there.

At Westgate Shopping Center, I stopped in at University Aquarium and encountered a complete iguana setup for \$124.99, including the gorgeously green creature itself. A few doors down at Happy House Gifts I spotted Coca-Cola suncatchers showing the familiar Coke logo incorporated into rural scenes such as a feed store or a covered bridge.

IncrediBalloons can put an eleven-foot balloon Santa, Nutcracker, or U-M football player in front of your tree on Christmas morning. "Most of what we do doesn't fall into classic gift ideas, but if I got them on Christmas morning, I'd think they were pretty cool," said Daryl Hurst, certified balloon artist and general manager of the store. Prices for large figures run roughly \$100 to \$175, depending on size.

T J Maxx holds a variety of high-end socks for men, including some with Tom-

my Hilfiger's distinctive color fields, for \$5-\$10. For women, I saw boldly colored travel bags from Perry Ellis America (\$24.99). At Little Professor Books, the front of the store always has well-chosen gift possibilities for kids of all ages. Check out the brightly colored hand-painted animal bookends-both ends of a dinosaur, for example—for \$29.95. A Curious George calendar (\$11.95) includes forty stickers; your gift recipient will no doubt think of new ways to use them year-round. Salt and pepper shakers from

Middle Earth

Wheeling around Stadium toward Washtenaw, I followed my usual habit and turned down South Industrial to see what was new at Recycle Ann Arbor's Buy Back and Reuse Center. Gift buyers on a budget will appreciate this place, whose se-

lection of goods

rivals that of Sears

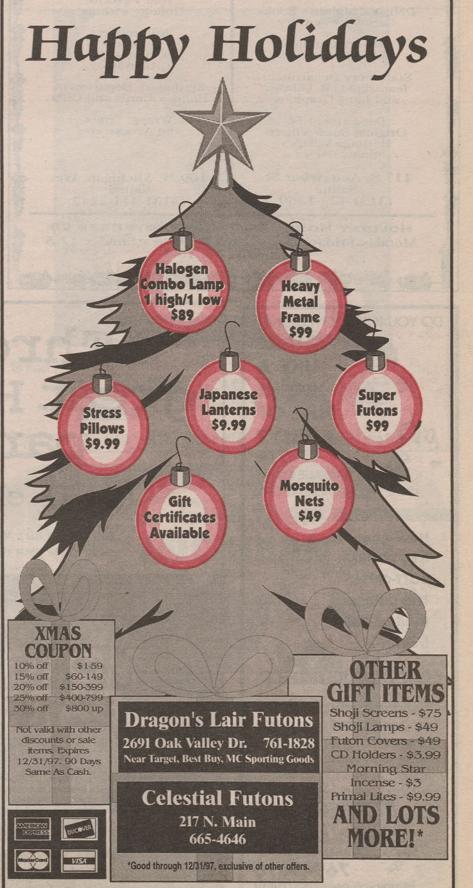
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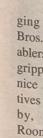
making a few repairs. One of the many toilet bowls currently in stock might make up part of a gift ensemble for someone whose job or relationship has recently gone down the drain. Most items cost less than \$20.

A kitchen timer is something that most people try to do without, but are delighted to receive as a gift. At Big Ten Party Store, on Packard off Stadium, I saw the Bonjour model, shaped like a teakettle, for \$9.98.

Barnes & Noble books at Washtenaw and Huron Parkway has a large display featuring the brand-new 1997 edition of The Joy of Cooking, revised by Ethan Becker, grandson of original author Irma Rombauer. Many recipes are new; the look and comprehensiveness are timeless. The book might make a good gift for someone who would just enjoy flipping through the pages, seeing recipes for smoked-turkeyand-arugula sandwiches and a chapter on







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Shopper's

Holida

he Washtenaw strip yields a lot of gift possibilities, both familiar and strange. Bavarian Village has warm winter coats of every description, and you might save a life with a ski helmet from Boeri, imported from Italy (\$115.95). Check out Hagopian Rugs for items smaller than rugs as well: pillows, small wooden furniture pieces, unusual candle holders.

Don't let the approaching demise of Arborland as we know it keep you away this holiday season. There are bargains to be had, and the mall is home to a few unusual shops attracted by the low rents. Originations Gallery continues to offer really striking African- and African-American-themed gifts at rock-bottom prices. I saw carved wooden heads, handcrafted by one of the store's owners, of African figures in traditional dress. Each incorporates a single cowrie shell (evocative of ancient African trading) in a different way, and each draws on the maker's studies of African costume and hair styles. They're a steal at \$6. There are also Kwanzaa wreaths, jewelry, hats, and Indonesian candle holders.

Gags and Gifts has always had timely cardboard stand-ups in stock, but the clerk assured me that they had stocked the life-sized Princess Diana long before her death. "What would've been tacky would have been to raise the price-but we didn't," she said. They're still \$19.95.

Marshall's (owned by the same folks as T J Maxx) is a good place to look for the gift that every woman wants-sensible shoes, most for under \$30. Burlington Coat Factory has full-length black leather trench coats for men, from Charles Klein, for \$129.95. They're truly tough-looking, and you can get a felt hat to match for \$17.99-\$19.99.

At Service Merchandise, it occurred to me that the Pollenex Smoke Grabber cordless smoke-inhaling ashtray (\$16.99) might help keep the peace for a while in a smoking-nonsmoking household. And check out the clocks! There are wooden clocks, plastic clocks, wood-case wall clocks, clocks that play music, clocks with sails that continuously move, cat clocks, clocks with inner workings visible-and the classic Baby Ben windup alarm at \$12.99.

For those of us who no longer spend as much time as we once did near campus, the Crown House of Gifts branch on Plymouth Road offers a convenient alternative to the original State Street store. They have a wide selection of Dickens Village miniature buildings for under-tree construction; a man I know was particularly taken by Victoria Station, decked out for the holidays in green ceramic swag-

http:www.apin.com/runfit

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769-5016



ging (\$112). Across the way, Carpenter Bros. Hardware has a rack of useful "Enablers"-ergonomically designed handles, grippers, and openers—that might make nice stocking stuffers for friends or relatives of a certain age (\$3.99-\$4.99). Nearby, at the Courtyard Shops, Mrs. Rooney's offers silk and velvet scarves from Nick & Nora (\$120); several are entirely black and dark gray and come off as elegant but unintimidating. And check out New Adventure on the northeast end of the building opposite Brewer's Sunoco. Even the classifications of the comic books are interesting; in addition to Super Heroes, you'll find Mutants, Mature, Action/Adventure, Space & Time, One Shots, Japanese, Women of the 90s ("Avengelyne"), and over in the corner, Family Fun. Comics are an art form of expanding popularity, and a selection of them could make an intriguing gift for young or old.

plunged into Briarwood with a visit to Hudson's, and immediately hit menswear. In case you haven't noticed, there's this game called golf that's pretty popular again. I found an attractive display of Master's Choice golf paraphernalia, including a Golf Ball Monogrammer (\$12), a Golf Ball Cleaning Kit (\$12), an Executive Golf Ball Cabinet (\$25), a Golf Ball Chipper Net (\$20), and a Golfer's Tear-Apart Stress Doll (\$18). I really liked a Kenneth Cole pocket watch—it was strong, steely, hip and classy and cost \$85.

Up on the second floor, I found three cases of collectible dolls, including Samantha from *Bewitched* (\$100), Rhett Butler from *Gone With the Wind* (\$85), and my personal favorite: the Let's Go

Shopping Doll, in both African-American and Caucasian models, for \$85.

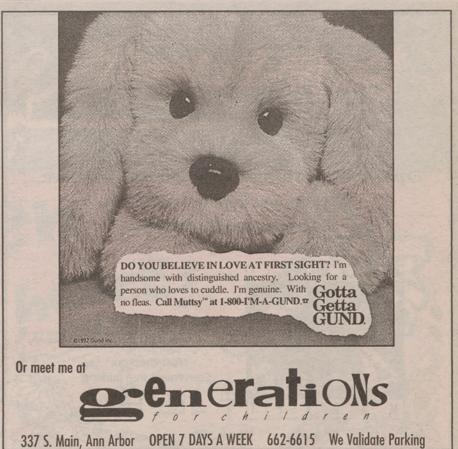
Want your house to smell as if you've been baking all day, even though you haven't been baking all day and don't plan to bake all day? Stop in at In the Cards and pick up Fresh Baked Candles (\$10.50 each) in peach cobbler, carrot cake, sugar cookie, and gingerbread flavors. Don't eat 'em. Smelling seems to be really big everywhere, in fact. Aromatherapy stuff is huge, and Crabtree & Evelyn has a collection of pleasantly scented candles that cost \$8-\$16 and allow you to "experience the scent of birch and oak logs, piled by the hearth."

Bachrach is always fun. I've watched my husband try on many suits there in my time. They have a new line of black and white silk ties for \$37–\$75. Beeeyootiful. Then there's Victoria's Secret, where full-length muscle-shirt tees are both elegant and comfy for \$36. They have the usual goodies, too. At American Eagle, I found a big fleece pullover with a zip neck, the color of old-fashioned baby aspirin. Way cool for \$58. (Don't worry: there are other colors as well.) Go to the Limited and squeeze the fuzzy shirts on display. You'll know which ones I mean; they're bright as blazes, for \$36.

Things Remembered is an engraving store. They'll engrave or monogram anything, such as the EMU and U-M fleece throws they're selling for \$40-\$45. What's the strangest thing they've ever engraved? The clerk thought a moment, then said, dryly, "a filled urn."

At Zales, I looked at, but did not touch, a \$13,000 solitaire ring. They've also got cuddly white teddy bears for \$9.95. Buy one and the store makes a donation to the







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Shopper's Holiday



Make-A-Wish Foundation. J. C. Penney has Christmas stuff galore, but I found myself drawn to a Humbug Massager by Pollenex. Looks like a bug, but it gives you a massage. It does not resemble the *Titanus Gigantus* in any way, shape or form, and it costs \$9.99.

"He walks forward, moves head and trunk with calling sound!" So says the packaging on a friendly little elephant at Natural Wonders. He was walking around the day I stopped by, and something meaningful happened between us. He costs \$20. As usual, plenty of other great products here, including an Alien Autopsy Game ("One wrong move, and its scream will send you running!") for \$25. I liked the computer bud vase (\$13), and hung around near the massage-and-stress relief display hoping someone would demonstrate on me, but no dice.

For an example of American enterprise in action, check out the Franklin Covey store, which blends the Franklin Day Planner industry with the amazingly popular treatises by Stephen R. Covey, author of Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families. There are a lot of other self-help titles here, too, including a video, Think and Grow Rich. It costs \$16.95...I'll have to think about it. Suncoast Video has a thrilling selection of Japanese animation including those popular, if inscrutable, titles, Gunsmith Cats (\$19.95) and Blue

Seed (\$24.95), not to mention the Fatal Fury boxed set for \$54.95.

I always enjoy those little mid-aisle carts at Briarwood. They sell everything from almonds to socks to jewelry. Pure Productions (their main store is on South Fourth Avenue) has everything hemp-related you could ever hope to see. Best of all are the Freedom Flyers (\$12). I couldn't throw a Frisbee if my life depended on it, but this squishy little hemp-made thing made me a pro in no time. (Gives new meaning to the term "floppy disk.") They also have inexpensive scarves and hats made from recycled plastic pop bottles. But they don't feel like pop bottles, you see. They're soft. And warm.

Forget Beanie Babies. The Disney Store has mini beanbag plush critters in the guise of your fave Diz characters: Sebastian, Mickey and Minnie, Pooh, Eeyore, Pluto, and the rest, for \$6. Write your holiday list with an ultra-cool, sculptured Skagen pen from Watch Station. They're \$25–\$45 and are both futuristic and strangely quaint at the same time. If I had a dog, I'd definitely buy a Bark-O-Lounger at Bath and Body Works. This big, fluffy pillow will keep your canine nestled in comfort all year. It's \$75.

It was getting late, so I didn't venture far into Jacobson's, but I hit pay dirt with a Judith Jack bracelet for \$98. It looks like a watchband *sans* watch. Funny.

Also: in ho engin becar dones Whee anima folks gearing it's fu ing the how and \$29.5

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Also: a great line of boys' cotton pajamas in hockey, football, snowboard, and fire engine motifs (\$27). Just down the hall, I became instantly enchanted with the Indonesian hand-carved animals at Spinning Wheel (another Common Market cart). Take your pick from among several cute animals fishing for \$14-\$20. Nice salesfolks, too. The Store of Knowledge is gearing up for a vibrant holiday season; it's full-to-bursting with cool stuff, including the Hoberman Transforming Globe. How to explain? It's round and hollow and gets big and small in a flash for \$29.95. Then there's the Gurglin' Guts Brain and Eyeball. They make noise and cost \$12.95 each.

At Williams-Sonoma, I admired the VacuVin vacuum wine saver for \$12.50. On to Gymboree, where truly chic little girls will smile pretty when they see that black patent-leather handbag with the pink bows for \$15. (Get the grown-up version two doors down at Ann Taylor, for \$58—big enough for the essentials and nothing more.) The Body Shop featured Marini's soothing fragrant candles in dark blue glass bottles (\$9.95) and Nut Body Butter (Mmm . . .) for \$11.95.

Fanfare, please: at Record Town, I bought something! Shania Twain's new CD, hot off the presses, for \$14.99 (though it may be more by the time you read this). The guy behind me was buying it, too. Tweety rules, in my book, and I admired the Santa-Tweety pillows at the Warner Bros. Store, for \$15 each. Radio Shack has a digital chess board that logs each move you make (\$99.99) and-my personal favorite-Robie the Banker, which saves your loose change ("Coins not included" the box warns). Maybe, I thought, Robie the Banker could get together with the Humbug Massager and give me a rub for my money. Yes, I was getting tired.

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As fate would have it, I stumbled on the grand opening of Because Company's Coming, an upscale kitchen and cookery store. They had snacks and crowds galore, but the owner took a moment to show me the R.A.W. Designs pepper mills, shaped like funny cacti, from \$46 to \$104. The most expensive thing at Wilson Suede & Leather was a woman's full-length leather trench coat with removable faux-fur collar and lining, for \$500. The cheapest gift was a \$6.99 change purse. I like that store. It smells good.

Express has racks and racks of velvet dresses, perfect for all those holiday parties I'd better be invited to. They're in the \$68-\$86 range. And I always love hopping into Bentley's, where good stuff to Write about is stacked ceiling to floor. Look for the Executive Mini Pool Table (\$13.50) and a sweater defuzzer (\$10). Eddie Bauer has gigantic handmade, wool and mohair Christmas stockings for \$42 that would look charming on the fireplace, or the bookcase you pretend is a fireplace. And, finally, at Godiva Chocolatier, I made an exception to my general rule of skipping over food stores: I found big gold bags of coffee in all flavors for \$10 (for ten ounces) and chocolate golf balls (three for \$13.50). Hmm. Golf balls. Full circle.



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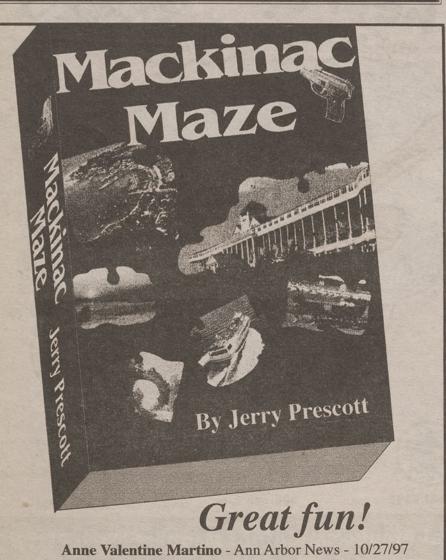
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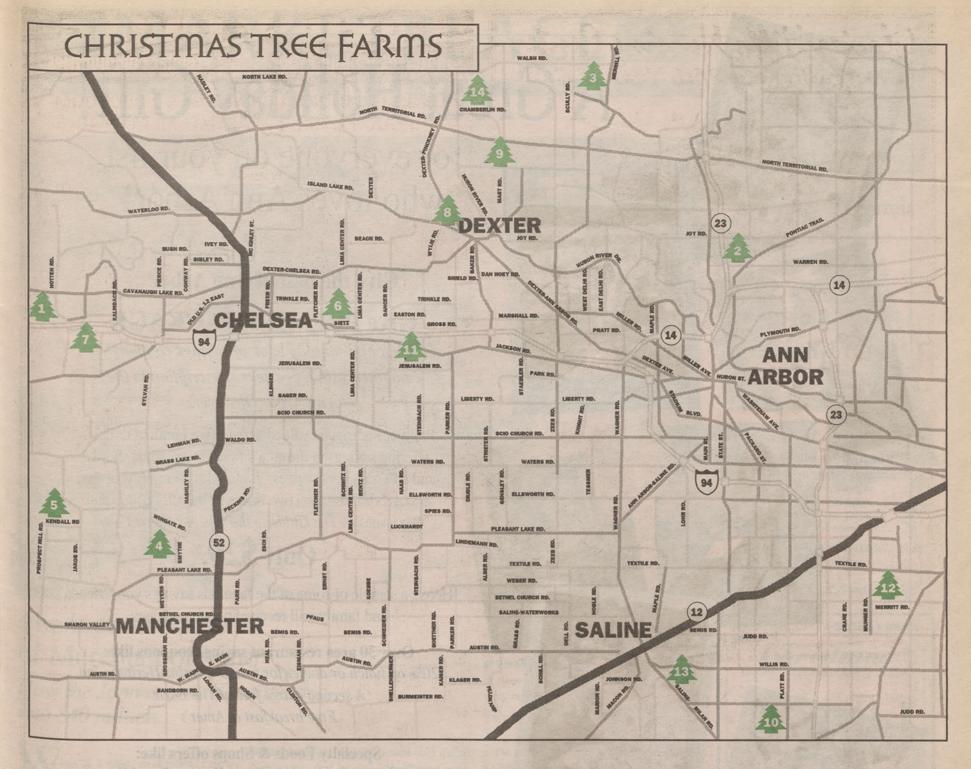


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urrounded by countryside, Ann Arbor is the ideal base for a very traditional holiday excursion. When the time comes to decorate for the holidays, many city dwellers drive to a nearby farm and cut their own Christmas trees. In Washtenaw County, more than a dozen farms (see map, above) devote some or all of their land to spruce, fir, or pine trees.

All of the farms listed begin selling trees right after Thanksgiving and keep at it until Christmas. Many expand on the tree-cutting experience with additional activities such as craft sales and hayrides. Others opt for a simpler approach. John Frey says customers return to his tree farm northwest of Manchester "because it's a nice drive out into the country—it's sparsely populated, and there's a lot of natural beauty to look at."

1. Arend Tree Farms, 3512 Notten Rd. (at Mushbach Rd.). 475–7584. Daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Scotch pine, white pine, Douglas fir, blue spruce, and white spruce, \$20-\$35. Some precut trees for \$5 and up. Free boughs. Wreaths, \$15. 250 acres of trees. Tree shaking and wrapping avail-

able. Horse-drawn wagons on weekends, and food and crafts at Salem Grove Methodist Church nearby.

2. Charlie Braun Christmas Trees, 796 Warren Rd. (west of Pontiac Tr.). 663–2717. Wed.–Fri. 3 p.m.–dark, Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.–dark, and by appointment. Scotch pine, white pine, blue spruce, Douglas fir, and Fraser fir, \$10 and up. 25 acres of trees.

3. Burnett's Christmas Tree Farm, 4875 Walsh Rd. (between Scully and Merrill rds.). 449–2149. Sat. & Sun. 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m., and by appointment. Scotch pine for \$25; spruce for \$30. Free boughs. 12 acres of trees. Wagon rides to trees.

4. Feldkamp Tree Farm, 8701 Smythe Rd. 428–8571. Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m., and by appointment. Scotch pine and spruce, \$10 and up. Wreaths, \$10–\$20. 14 acres of trees.

5. Frey's Tree Farm, 15356 Kendall Rd. (between Jacob and Prospect Hill rds.). 428–1425. Daily 8 a.m.-dusk. Douglas fir, Fraser fir, Colorado blue spruce, Black Hill spruce, \$22. 50 acres of trees. Customers can drive into the tree fields.

6. Heise's Tree Farm, Sietz Dr. (at Fletcher Rd., just north of I-94). 665–4025. Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.-dusk. Blue spruce, Norway spruce, Scotch pine, \$3 per foot. Free bag.

7. Hoppe's Christmas Tree Farm, Kilmer Rd. (between Kalmbach and Notten rds., south of I-94). (517) 784–0916. Fri.–Sun. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. White spruce and blue spruce, \$25. Five acres of trees.

8. Jenny's Market, 8366 Island Lake Rd. (at Dexter-Pinckney Rd.). 426-4724. Daily 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Douglas fir, Fraser fir, blue spruce for around \$40. One- to five-foot wreaths, \$15-\$100. Horse-drawn hayrides on weekends, free cider and doughnuts.

9. Mosher's Tree Farm, 7155 North Territorial Rd. (at Mast Rd.). 426–5271. Mon.–Fri. 1–5 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. White spruce for \$30. Potted trees also available. 38 acres of trees. Free tree baling and bag, complimentary candy canes and cider.

10. Sun Tree Farms, 104 Judd Rd. (between Platt and Warner rds.). 429–3666.

11. Urquhart's Tree Farm, 230 S. Steinbach Rd. (near Jerusalem Rd.). 475–1500. Fri.—Sun. 10 a.m.—4 p.m., and by appointment. Blue spruce, Scotch pine, white pine, Douglas fir, Fraser fir, \$3.50–\$6 per foot (average price around \$30). 50 acres of trees. Free shaking, baling, and bag.

12. Wiard's Orchards, 5565 Merritt Rd. (west of Stony Creek Rd.). 482–7744. Thurs.—Sun. 10 a.m.—5 p.m. Scotch pine, blue spruce, and Colorado spruce, \$20 and up. 20 acres of trees. Free shaking and baling. Also, country store with gift barn and bakery.

13. Windy Ridge Orchard, 9375 Saline-Milan Rd. 429–7111. Thurs.—Sun. 10 a.m.—5:30 p.m. Douglas fir for \$25–\$35. Also, precut trees: Douglas fir, Fraser fir, Scotch pine. 30 acres of trees. Hayrides, cider, and apples; jams and jellies. Christmas bakery with pies, doughnuts, and cookies.

14. Woods and Waters, 8000 Chamberlin Rd. (between Mast Rd. and Huron River Dr.). 426–2476. Fri. 3 p.m.-dusk, Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.-dusk. Norway spruce for \$25-\$40; blue spruce, \$50. 30 acres of trees. Free white pine greenery.



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MARKETPLACE SHANGE



The lucrative sale of Merchant of Vino

How the Jonnas turned a nifty idea into \$40 million

as it a nice, neat merger or a volatile tug-of-war between two national rivals? The answer depends on who you ask. Either way, the recently announced stock merger between the Detroitbased Merchant of Vino and Austin, Texas-based Whole Foods Market means big changes ahead for Ann Arbor's natural foods and produce scene.

According to Matt Jonna, son of Merchant of Vino owner Ed Jonna and a managing partner in the family business, Whole Foods approached the Jonnas with an offer too good to resist: 1.03 million shares of common stock, valued at an excess of \$40 million. In December, when the deal becomes final, the Merchant of Vino stores will adopt the name Merchant of Vino/Whole Foods Markets, and Merchant of Vino, in the person of Matt's older brother Marc, becomes Whole Foods' national wine consultant. "The response from everybody—the employees, the community—has been excellent," Matt Jonna enthuses.

But others on the inside of the Merchant of Vino operation say that isn't the whole story. Produce Station owner Rick Peshkin and Marguerite Oliver of Pasta-

bilities both say that Ed Jonna told them months ago that he was considering selling the business—but not to Whole Foods Peshkin and Oliver have been operating branches of their businesses inside all four Merchant of Vino Marketplace stores (in Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Southfield, and Troy). They say the buyer Jonna told them about was Wild Oats, a natural foods supermarket chain based in Boulder, Colorado, that has emerged in the past ten years as Whole Foods' biggest rival.

"Wild Oats approached the Merchant of Vino about six months ago," says Peshkin. "They had the CEO in town for a long time. I met with him, he met with several of my employees. My employees were pretty happy about it. They liked the Wild Oats people.

After six months of negotiations, according to Peshkin, Wild Oats made an offer-which Ed Jonna then invited Whole Foods to counter. Whole Foods came back with a significantly higher bid, Peshkin says, and the Wild Oats deal crumbled. "The Whole Foods deal came like a locomotive out of the blue," says Peshkin. "The Wild Oats people were really ticked off."

Oliver says that she, too, was told that the Wild Oats negotiations had fallen apart

"The Whole Foods deal came like a locomotive out of the blue," says Rick Peshkin, who operated four branches of his Produce Station inside Merchant of Vino stores. "The Wild Oats people were really ticked off."

in the face of a higher offer. "When I hadn't heard anything else from Eddie about it," says Oliver, "I called Wild Oats in Colorado. They were really nice, but they said the deal had fallen apart in the last week."

None of this is very unusual in the world of business, where a small chain of successful regional stores is likely to attract multiple national suitors. But when asked about the Wild Oats negotiations, Matt Jonna says they never occurred. "We may have discussed energies with Wild Oats," he says—a term he defines as "sharing concepts, kicking some ideas around"-but the two sides "never sat down and knocked out numbers."

"They absolutely did talk numbers," says Peshkin. He adds that he has no idea why Matt Jonna would deny the Wild Oats negotiations took place, but he agrees that the family might prefer to be seen as a small outfit making good through the graces of a lone suitor than as a shrewd corporate player using one national offer to leverage another, higher bid.

tarting with a single party store in suburban Detroit, the Jonnas built a highly successful wine business. But when











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they took over the former Showerman's IGA in 1992, they expanded to a whole new level, inviting other merchants to build on their base of wine and gourmet items with fresh produce, meat, and prepared foods. That was where the Produce Station and Pastabilities came in. Neither Oliver nor Peshkin had a contract with Merchant of Vino. They say they opened their businesses inside Ed Jonna's stores based on nothing more binding than a handshake. "I asked Eddie if I should get a lawyer," says Oliver, "and he said, 'No, I hate lawyers. My handshake is my bond."

"It was a handshake deal," concurs Peshkin. "It struck me as a throwback kind of thing, but then, I'm a throwback kind of guy, so it didn't bother me."

The Ann Arbor store's profusion of offerings was so successful that the Jonna family quickly made it the prototype for a mini-chain. The Produce Station and Pastabilities went along with each new opening. But it was only in October, shortly before the Whole Foods offer, that Peshkin and the Jonnas put something on paper. They cut a buyout deal with Peshkin. He won't reveal the amount he was paid but says that he doesn't think it was enough-he says that his Produce Stations accounted for 20 percent of the Marketplace stores' sales. "I was there from the beginning," he says. "I helped build that place up. They needed me out of the way before they did the deal with Whole Foods."

Now, with Whole Foods in the picture, the Produce Station has abruptly shrunk from five stores to one, Peshkin's original location on South State Street. "I don't think I got treated fairly, but I don't want to complain," he says. "Eddie's a great guy. I had a delightful time working with him—I learned a lot."

Oliver was never approached with a formal buyout agreement, but she says Ed Jonna did buy her equipment. "I told him I'd paid twenty-two, twenty-three thousand dollars, and he wrote me a check for twenty-five thousand dollars," she says. As for whether or not she can continue to operate her pasta kiosks in the Merchant of Vino/Whole Foods stores, "Eddie told me I was on my own with Whole Foods, and that I'd have to talk to them."

Peshkin's 100-some employees are all being invited to stay on with Whole Foods, but Peshkin says he hopes to bring a few of them back to the State Street store. He also hasn't ruled out the possibility of continuing to do business with the Merchant of Vino/Whole Foods stores through Frog Holler, his produce wholesale company. "Frog Holler supplies [the Lamp Post Plaza] Whole Foods right now, filling in what they can't bring in from Chicago," he says. "We'll see what happens. I still have some talks left with them."

Peshkin and Oliver aren't the only ones facing uncertain futures. Whole Foods itself is still unsure of what exactly it plans to do with its new Ann Arbor stores. "As far as I know right now, the existing Merchant of Vino stores, in-

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cluding the one in Ann Arbor, will be called Merchant of Vino/Whole Foods Market, and will remain basically Merchants of Vino with a slightly different product mix," says Whole Foods investor relations spokesperson Cindy Butts. "When someone's established their brand name in a market, we usually just keep that name and tag it with the Whole Foods name underneath."

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Whole Foods learned that lesson the hard way. The seventy-seven-store natural foods supermarket chain owes much of its growth to its acquisition of smaller regional chains like southern California's Mrs. Gooch's, which Whole Foods acquired in 1993 and renamed Whole Foods Market in 1996. "People had been fine with the acquisition, many hadn't even noticed the change, until we changed the name," says Butts. "But all of a sudden, there was this public outcry. People saw us as the bad corporate guys in the black hats."

While the Merchant of Vino stores will operate with the Whole Foods "tag," Ann Arbor's original Whole Foods store in Lamp Post Plaza will keep its present name, according to Butts. "We do, however, expect the wine department selection to change," she says. "One of the reasons we acquired the Merchant of Vino was for their wine expertise, and we expect to be learning from them and applying that knowledge in all our stores nationwide."

As for the 33,000-square-foot Merchant of Vino the Jonna family was planning to open in the old Farmer Jack space on West Stadium, odds are it will be another Whole Foods Market, according to Butts. "Nothing is certain," she says, "but that's the initial reaction I've heard."

Can the Ann Arbor market support what will be, in effect, three Whole Foods Markets? Peshkin isn't sure. "When you look at a map, you can see that the new store isn't very far from the old one," he says. "I wonder if they'll keep them all open long-term."

At Whole Foods, however, people are thinking positive. "At this time, we're planning to open and maintain all three stores," says Whole Foods Chicago-Metro marketing director Alison Williams.

It also remains to be seen what effect those three stores will have on Ann Arbor's locally owned produce and natural foods markets, particularly those on the west side of town that will be in direct geographic competition with Whole Foods' new West Stadium superstore.

"It's really hard to anticipate what's going to happen," says Ben Stahl, who, along with his wife, Lynda, has just finished a substantial redesign of Coleman's Four Seasons Market, their West Liberty produce market, plant nursery, and food specialty shop. "The negative aspect would be that we lose market share. The positive aspect is that you bring more people into the area. The most important thing is what's best for the customer. Our strategy is to keep doing what we do better, and see what the customers think."

Arbor Farms owner Leo Fox is equally philosophical. "Whole Foods is bigger, they've got the fresh meat counter, more produce, a bigger deli," he says. "But I made my size decision several years ago. I

was in a position where I could have expanded, and I chose not to do that. I'm comfortable with Arbor Farms' size, and so are many of my regular customers. They like the fact that they can park right by the door and shop in a store that's an easy-to-shop size, and still walk out of here with three bags of groceries. We've been around eighteen years. And we're going to be here for another eighteen more."

As for Peshkin, he's off on a longplanned vacation to Paris and Costa Rica. "When I get back, we'll see," he says. "What I would really like to do is just renovate this place [the State Street Produce Station] and hole up back here where I started out, maybe open another store somewhere."

But if he decides to open that new store soon, it will have to be somewhere other than Ann Arbor—or Birmingham, Southfield, or Troy. Under the terms of the "non-compete" clause in the buyout agreement he signed with the Merchant of Vino, Peshkin is prohibited from opening another produce business within ten miles of any Merchant of Vino/Whole Foods Market for one year.

-Laura McReynolds

Dealership upheaval

In a complex game of musical chairs, GM revamps its Ann Arbor lineup

rivers on Washtenaw Avenue this fall may have noticed a puzzling vacancy at Ann Arbor Buick: for the first time in more than three decades, there wasn't a single new Buick on the lot. In mid-November, the vast asphalt expanse was broken only by a trio of small Suzuki 4x4s and a dozen or so used cars. In the dramatic, angular showroom, the only Buick on display was a leftover 1997 demonstrator.

A press release confirmed the obvious: after seventy-four years, the Prochnow family has relinquished its Buick franchise. The buyer is Delaware-based Jennings Motors—but the real force behind the sale is General Motors itself.

The sale is the first in a cascade of changes at local GM dealerships. West-side dealer Jim Bradley confirms that the Buick franchise will end up at his store, which will be renamed Jim Bradley Pontiac Buick GMC. Meanwhile, Bradley says, his present Cadillac franchise will be going to Goodman Oldsmobile on Washtenaw—right across the street from Ann Arbor Buick.

To a casual observer, it might look like a giant game of musical chairs. In fact, the moves are a sign of just how serious GM is about rebuilding its business. During the 1980s, GM became infamous for marketing almost identical cars under different names, muddling the hierarchy that was



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Appetizers

Oshitashi Chilled cakes of wilted spinach, seasoned with soy sauce and mirin, with marinated shiitake mushrooms

Chargrilled Sweet Potato Chargrilled slices of sweet potato served on a bed of mole, garnished with fresh cilantro and sour cream

Blue Cheese Gougere Savory cream puffs baked with Parmesan cheese, filled with Maytag blue cheese, caramelized onions and roasted pecans, served with an apple-pear puree

Tiger Cries Tempeh Thai-inspired dish of marinated, chargrilled tempeh with chili sauce and lime

Soup/Salad

Roasted Vegetable Consomme A richly flavored broth made from oven-roasted leeks, carrots, celery, porcini mushrooms, parsnips, onions and garlic Hot & Sour Soup Chinese black mushrooms, tree ears, lily buds, tofu, eggs and green onions in a vegetable broth flavored with white pepper (hot) and rice vinegar (sour) Mesclun Salad Fresh, organic baby lettuces and bitter greens with dried cherries and roasted pine nuts

Sea Tangle Colorful salad of assorted sea vegetables, with a seasoned rice vinegar dressing

Entrees

Grilled Vegetable Rotolo Chargrilled mushrooms, onions, zucchini and red bell peppers, with sun-dried tomatoes and goat cheese, rolled in fresh spinach pasta and poached, sliced into pinwheel shapes and baked on a bed of roasted vegetable-red wine bordelaise Black Bean Cakes Grilled cakes of black beans laced with onion, garlic, habanero peppers and fresh cilantro served with a butternut squash and smoked sweet corn puree, with a roasted tomato-chipotte salsa and wild mushroom sopes

Chargrilled Baby Vegetables Chargrilled mixed baby squash, potatoes, carrots, eggplant and onions served with a warm bean salad and savory five-rice pilaf Smoked Mushroom Ravioli Giant house-made ravioli of smoked mushroom duxelle and leeks in striped egg-tomato pasta, with a truffle cream sauce

Dessert

Flouriess Chocolate Cake Rich creamy truffle of a torte, topped with a thin layer of raspberry preserves and glazed with ganache Tiramisu Luscious dessert of marscarpone whipped with Marsala, layered with Kahlua- and espresso-soaked ladyfingers, garnished with bittersweet chocolate curls Fruit-Topped Tofu Pudding Venilla tofu pudding topped with fresh berries and fruits and an apricot glaze Raspberry Sorbet

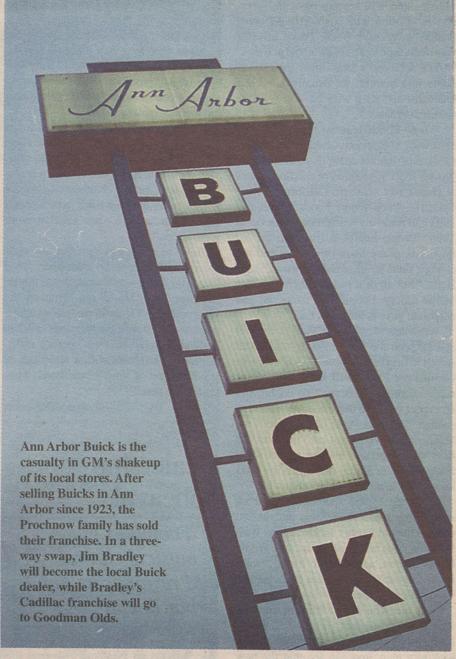
Happy New Year! New Year's Eve \$19.98/person

reservations required









supposed to distinguish a practical Chevrolet from a luxurious Cadillac. (At one point, Oldsmobile, Buick, and Cadillac all were selling versions of the Chevy Cavalier.) Now the automaker's Project 2000 strategy is seeking to undo the damage. Each GM brand once again has its own image and look (the new Buicks have chunky, Mercedes-like lines, enlivened by swoopy American curves).

The automaker's next step is to restructure its dealership network. The automotive dealership industry has been declining for years: from 50,000 in 1941 to 25,000 today. What's different now is the pace at which GM is pruning the deadwood and repotting the survivors. Though the company has been working to rationalize vehicle distribution and retailing since the early 1990s, competitive pressure from rising new entrants, such as CarMax and Auto-Nation, has sped up the pace of consolidation. By the end of this year alone 500 GM dealerships are expected to undergo some kind of change; 5,000 more may disappear by the year 2000.

When the Ann Arbor reshuffling is complete, every GM model will still be sold in the city, but from four dealerships instead of five. (Rampy Chevrolet and Bradley's Saturn of Ann Arbor aren't affected by the changes.) The simple way to accomplish that, of course, would have been just to move Buick across the street to Goodman Olds. But from GM's point of view, that would have perpetuated an undesirable situation in which two similarly priced brands (Buick is supposed to be a little more expensive) were being sold side by side. Owner Robert Goodman won't comment, saying final details still haven't been firmed up, but the complicated shift means his store will end up with two car lines, Olds and Cadillac, at clearly distinct price points. (Goodman also sells GM's Saab import line and a Japanese brand, Isuzu.)

In GM's universe, a shift from Cadillac to Buick is considered a step down. But Jim Bradley says he's delighted by the change, and expects to build local Buick sales significantly. He's hired experienced salespeople from Ann Arbor Buick and says he's eager to offer Buick buyers "the same excellent service that the Jim Bradley dealership has given to Pontiac and GMC customers over the years."

here does all this leave the Prochnow family, which has sold Buicks in Ann Arbor for so many years? Walter Prochnow bought the local Buick franchise in 1923, only to die just seven years later, at the age of thirty-three. Left with two children to support, his widow, Ella, rolled up her sleeves and became the

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first female car dealer in the nation ("Then and Now," October 1994). In the early 1960s, after her son, also named Walter, had taken over as general manager, Ella oversaw the move to the Washtenaw Avenue building. The showroom is a classic example of that era's brave-new-world style, and it's hard to look at the soaring glass walls and not imagine the bulging Roadmasters and sporty Wildcats that were once displayed there.

But the days when customers eagerly awaited the annual unveiling of Buick's new models are long gone. "People aren't as brand loyal anymore," says Walter, who now owns the business with his sister Bette. "And with half the market captured by trucks and sports utility vehicles, selling new cars is not an easy business to be in."

The Washtenaw Avenue site is extremely valuable, and if he wished, Walter could easily sell out and retire. But he says that the family plans to remain in business on Washtenaw. The rechristened Ann Arbor Suzuki and Ann Arbor Service Company will sell Japanese Suzukis, used cars, auto parts, and repair services.

—Sally Seymour

From blue corn to organic cotton

Bena Burda brings her company home from California

Ann Arbor-based Maggie's Organics/Clean Clothes has started selling comfy organic cotton clothing at factory-direct prices out of a tiny office on Pauline Boulevard. Clean Clothes is the maker of the Maggie's brand of "functional organics": organic cotton socks, T-shirts, underpants, tights, and camisoles that the company wholesales to retailers, mail-order companies, and businesses nationwide.

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Clean Clothes' offices are modest, but the company has some big-name customers like Ben & Jerry's, who print their logos on Maggie's brand T-shirts, the rock band Phish, the Nature Company, Seventh Generation, and regional grocery chains, including New York's Food Emporium. Locally, Clean Clothes' products can be found at Busch's Valu Land, Generations, the People's Food Co-op, Fourth Avenue Birkenstock, Footprints, and the Ypsilanti Food Co-op.

The stock at the Pauline Boulevard showroom is divided into "first quality" factory overruns and "irregulars," items with a small flaw such as one black thread woven in among the undyed cotton, or a tiny stain or hole. The overrun prices are good (undyed cotton T-shirts are three for \$1), but the irregular prices are even better. One November weekend, ankle-high athletic socks with some mild staining were priced at five pairs for \$6.

Most of the items are a clean-looking off-white, produced by bleaching the cotton with a biodegradable hydrogen perox-



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ide. Colored items are produced through natural, low-impact dyes or by using what the industry calls "color grown" cotton, cotton that has been selectively bred to have its own natural subtle hue. Because the colors are grown-in, not dyed, they never fade. In fact, the color actually darkens a bit with repeated washings.

lean Clothes owner Bena (Be-NAY) Burda discovered organic cotton on her way to finding the perfect blue corn tortilla chip. Originally from Ann Arbor, Burda spent ten years working for Clinton, Michigan-based Eden Foods before moving west to begin marketing blue corn tortilla chips for a company called Little Bear. Little Bear bought blue year." These pesticides contaminate the water supply, render the soil infertile, and contribute to soil erosion. In California, it's illegal to feed "gin trash" (the leaves, stems, and short fibers that are left behind after the cotton is cleaned) to livestock because of the levels of pesticide residue. And yet, says Burda, the gin trash is used to make furniture, mattresses, tampons, and cotton balls.

Burda and her partner were sold on organic cotton, but they still had no idea what to make out of it. Finally, they decided on socks. "We picked socks because they're small, they're impulse-driven, and we could offer retailers a large profit margin," says Burda. "Also, we know we could fit a message about how awful nonorganic cotton is on a sock-sized card."

Burda took the socks to her natural food connections at an Anaheim trade show and "basically guilt-tripped everyone I knew into buying them," she laughs. Those connections also led her to Bill Knudsen, of Knudsen Organic Fruit Juices, who suggested she start making T-shirts for him, and Ben & Jerry's, an account big enough to fund Burda's buyout of the company from her former partner. In May she moved back to Ann Arbor and brought the company with her.

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Clean Clothes works in partnership with farmers, yarn mills, and garment assemblers across the country to produce its products. "Most of the garment industry has taken their piecework offshore," says Burda, "not just because of the labor issue. but because that way, they don't have to meet the EPA's standards. We prefer to give work to

areas like the South that are completely economically debilitated."

Recently, Burda learned that some of her Maggie's T-shirts have made it all the way to the Louvre via one of her customers, a T-shirt printer in Maine. "I was in one of the plants down South, and I told the women doing the sewing that their shirts were now in the Louvre. They were like, 'The who?' Once I explained it, they were just ecstatic. I told the guy in Maine, the best T-shirts we ever made were sewn that day, the day I told those women their shirts were in a museum in Paris, France. I told him, 'You can feel very good about what you did.""

Maggie's Organics/Clean Clothes, 1955 Pauline Boulevard, Suite 200, 998-1611. Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and by appointment. Possible evening hours for the



Bena Burda with her Maggie's Organics cotton socks.

corn direct from area farmers, but by the time the grain was converted into chips, the color had faded and the chips would come out an unappetizing gray. Burda was puzzling over the problem with a local farmer when he discovered that planting cotton one season prior to planting corn boosted the grain's color intensity. "The farmer was thrilled, we were thrilled it worked," explains Burda. "But then he said, 'Bena, I've got all this organic cotton. Do something with it!"

Burda didn't know what to do with it, but she was willing to find out. With a venture capitalist partner, she started researching cotton, and along the way, she learned some unsettling facts. "The world's cotton crop represents something like three percent of all cultivated land,' says Burda. "But it uses twenty-five percent of all the pesticides produced each



Briefly Noted

After four years tucked away in the narrow northeast corner of Kerrytown's Market Building, Lily's Garden Plants and Flowers has added a cafe and expanded into the space next door.

"It's a better space," says co-owner Lily Kittle of the new southeast corner, with its windows facing Fifth Avenue and the Farmers' Market. "It's got high visibility, which is great for flowers, since they're an impulse purchase."

"We won't be doing espresso or cappuccino," says the Sweet Spot's Lily Kittle firmly. "We want to focus on what I think of as 'regular' food. Affordable things like doughnuts for moms to buy for their kids, and chicken noodle soup."

That coveted southeast corner is where Lily's Garden first opened in 1992, but Lily and her husband, Tim, were forced to move the flower shop when their lease ran out a year later and the Moveable Feast out-negotiated them for the space. Today, though, there are no hard feelings. In fact, it's due in part to the encouragement of the Feast's new owner, Dan Huntsbarger, that the Kittles are broadening their business at all. "Tim has wanted to do a cafe for years," says Lily. "Then, when Dan decided to close [the Feast's Kerrytown location], he said, 'Hey, do it. You can sublease from me, and I'll supply the pastries.' And so we did."

With that, the Kittles tore down the wall separating the two spaces and began turning the southeast end into the **Sweet Spot**, a casual coffee shop whose decor in-

ut

The new B1 store in Briarwood specializes in stylish housewares for entertaining. Regan Kauer helped get the store up and running.

cludes lovely fresh stock from Lily's Garden. The Kittles are still working on their menu, but plan to serve coffee, homemade soups, and pastries from the Moveable Feast and other suppliers, with the focus on what Lily calls "easy-grab foods"—breads, desserts, and other items that lend themselves to eating on the go.

"We won't be doing espresso or cappuccino," says Lily firmly. "We want to focus on what I think of as 'regular' food. Affordable things like doughnuts for moms to buy for their kids, and chicken noodle soup. There are great things to eat in Kerrytown, but not enough regular food. I've been saying for years, 'I just want chicken noodle soup!'"

When I called in early November, the Kittles were still going back and forth over a name for the coffee shop. In fact, they decided on the Sweet Spot while I was waiting on the phone. "Tim wanted to call it Lily's Sweet Spot, so people would know we owned both places," said Lily wryly. "But I turned red just thinking about it."

Sweet Spot, 407 North Fifth Avenue (Kerrytown), 663–2693. Probable hours: Mon.–Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

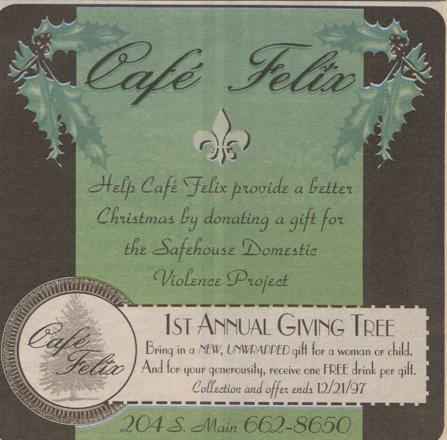
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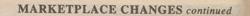
If you're giving a party and your table doesn't have a thing to wear, check out **B1**, the new housewares store next to the Gap in Briarwood. B1 is short for Basics One, a name that's a bit at odds with its slogan—"Because Company's Coming"—and its stock. Although B1 carries kitchen utensils, teakettles, and pots and pans, most of the store is given over to the kind of stuff you'd use when entertaining: fun, funky china, oversized wine glasses, and hand-painted serving platters. And even their kitchen utensils have sleek, stylish Euro-designs.

In early November, B1's inventory included vibrant, hand-painted bowls in deep red splashed with turquoise, Kay Young glassware decorated with exuberant squiggles, hand-painted stoneware









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from Deruta of Italy, and lush china patterns in high-impact color combinations like lime green and eggplant. B1 also carries cookbooks, exotic salsas, oils, mustards, and pastas.

The store's focal point is a large circular kitchen used for impromptu product demonstrations and evening cooking classes. Upcoming classes include "90's Style Holiday Fare," taught by Birmingham-area caterer Kate Smith, and "Rustic Italian," with Chianti Tuscan Grill sous chef Jim Monahan. The product demos are free, but the classes cost around \$35 each; attendees should preregister at least three days in advance.

B1 is the brainchild of Suzanne Maurer, who opened her first store in Ohio nine years ago. The Ann Arbor shop is Maurer's fourth; she's scheduled to open a fifth store in Novi's Twelve Oaks mall at the end of November, and hopes to open other stores in Birmingham and Cleveland next year.

B1, 994-8860. Briarwood hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.

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At the other end of Briarwood near J. C. Penney, Babbages Software closed in late October, only to be replaced less than a month later by a virtual clone called EB (Electronics Boutique). Like Babbages, EB carries computer software as well as Play Station and Sega-Genesis video games.

Visitors to EB's high-energy, acid-colored website may be surprised by the store's sedate beige decor. It turns out to be left over from Babbage's. The company, which is based in Westchester, Pennsylvania, wanted to open the Ann Arbor store in time for the holidays, and decided to wait to remodel until January.

Electronics Boutique will have two new neighbors when Spencer Gifts opens what Briarwood management calls a "holiday store" and Waldenbooks opens a seasonal calendar store, Day by Day Calendar Co. Temporary tenants like these are becoming increasingly more popular with shopping center leasing agents because they generate short-term income while agents negotiate with potential long-term tenants.

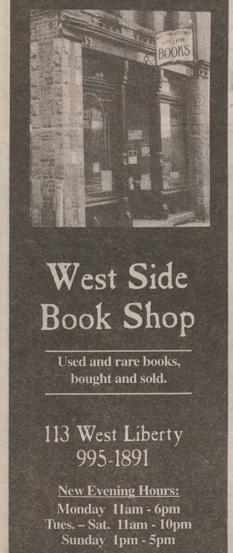
EB, 761-5293; Day by Day Calendar Co., phone number unavailable at press time. Briarwood hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.

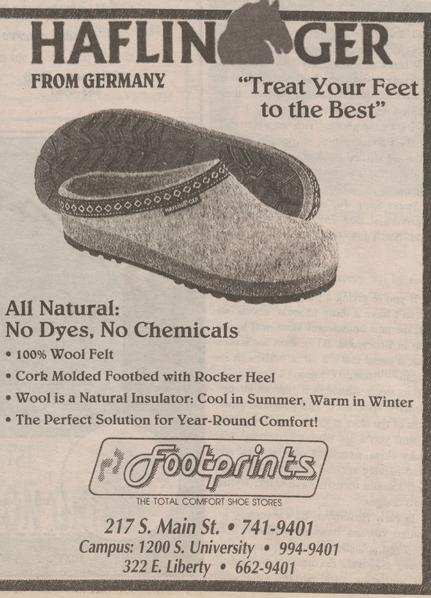
Are you "on-the-mall" or "off-the-mall"?

Those buzzwords come courtesy of the media relations folks at Sears, who use the terms both to define customer demographics and to differentiate between their mall-based Sears Auto Centers and their freestanding National Tire and Battery (NTB) stores. The company is in the process of opening an Ann Arbor NTB in the former Fretter store on Washtenaw Avenue.

"There are a lot of people who feel







Gift Certificates Available

very comfortable coming to Sears," explains Sears media relations staffer Bob McHenry. "They like coming to the mall, and they trust the Sears name. But there's also a significant portion of the public who won't want to go to the mall, who'd rather stop off somewhere on their way home to get their tires fixed. For them, there's NTB."

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NTB carries a full line of brand-name and private-label tires and batteries, just like Sears' "on-the-mall" stores. But it stocks a larger selection of performance tires to meet the needs of what Sears sees as a sportier "off-the-mall" clientele. In addition to tire replacement and rotation, NTB also services brakes, shocks, and struts and does alignment jobs. "Ninety percent of drivers don't get the mileage guarantee that comes with their tires, not because of poor tire quality, but because they don't maintain proper alignment, inflation, and rotation," cautions McHenry. "NTB's off-the-mall locations make it easier to do just that."

The NTB stores are designed to be what McHenry calls "gender friendly," with play areas for kids and a glassed-in waiting room that provides a clear view of the service area. "Many tire shops aren't exactly the cleanest stores in the world, and women don't always feel comfortable there," says McHenry. "At NTB, we maintain a clean store, front and back, and we encourage customers to come back into the service area and watch what we're doing, provided they wear a pair of safety goggles. We want people to have a comfortable well-informed experience."

To avoid confusion, Sears isn't playing up the connection between the new NTB stores and Sears Auto Centers. "You'd never know you were in a store owned by Sears," says McHenry, "unless you notice that you can pay with your Sears credit card."

National Tire and Battery, 3501 Washtenaw, 677-4731. Hours unavailable at press time.

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At the end of October, Minnesota Fabrics traded in its store in Maple Village for a new, slightly smaller one along the center's east-facing strip. Store manager Diane Schenk says the move was prompted by a request from Maple Village's leasing company, New Plan Realty Trust, which wanted Minnesota Fabric's original space for a prospective tenant it is trying to woo. "Hey, if a new business comes in, that just means more traffic for the center," she says philosophically. "We didn't mind taking a smaller space, and we got a new store out of it." New Plan's Martin Liles confirms that his company is negotiating a new lease for the old Minnesota Fabric space, but declines to identify the prospective new tenant until a lease has been signed.

Minnesota Fabrics, 227 North Maple (Maple Village), 662-4449. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.

In late October, Dave Bone was planning to close his Play It Again Sports franchise in Ypsilanti's Roundtree Center and divide its stock between two new Ann Arbor locations, one on Carpenter Road near Packard and the other in the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Road. "The Ypsi store did good business-better than average, in fact, by Play It Again standards-but not enough to justify its four thousand square feet," says Bone. The two new stores each come in at about 2,400 square feet.

Bone is the local franchisee for Play It Again Sports, a subsidiary of a Minneapolis-based company called Grow Biz International that also franchises Computer Renaissance, Once Upon a Child, Disc Go Round, and Music Go Round. Although used sporting equipment was once Play It Again's primary focus, Bone says that's no longer the case. "We're doing about seventy-five percent new equipment now-ever since we got into in-line skates in a big way four or five years ago," he explains.

Bone was hoping to have the Courtyard Shops store open in time for the holiday shopping season, but he was less sanguine about the prospects of getting the Carpenter store open before Christmas. "The landlord is doing all the building at the Courtyard Shops," says Bone, "and he's almost done. But I'm still trying to find a contractor for Carpenter."

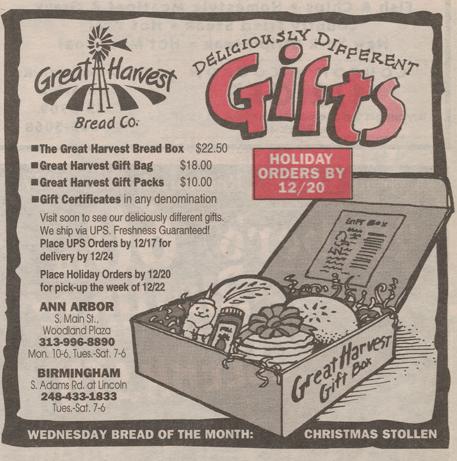
In the meantime, Bone is concentrating on his Westgate Shopping Center store, where he stocks new and used equipment from brands like CCM, Victoriaville, Pro Line, Rollerblade, and K2. "Mothers shopping for their kids are our primary customer," says Bone. "But we've got something for everybody-seniors looking for exercise equipment, young professionals,

Play It Again Sports, 1747 Plymouth (Courtyard Shops) and 2865 Carpenter, phone numbers unavailable at press time. Probable hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 1-7 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.

In the age of digital audiotape, and compact and laser discs, a store called Record Exchange sounds like a bit of an anachronism. Indeed, the name hasn't changed since the company got its start in 1977. The merchandise it sells, however, has come a long way from the scratchy recycled vinyl LPs the name invokes. The family-owned chain, based in Cleveland, just opened its second Michigan store, on South University (the first is in Southfield), where it sells new CDs, audio cassettes, video games, and video systems, and maintains what it calls the largest, most comprehensive selection of used

In addition to buying new or used recordings, customers can also bring in used CDs to cash in or trade. Store manager Todd Pokorny says they set a price based on the condition of the CD and the popularity of the title, and offer up to \$8 in trade or \$6 in cash. "We'll take almost









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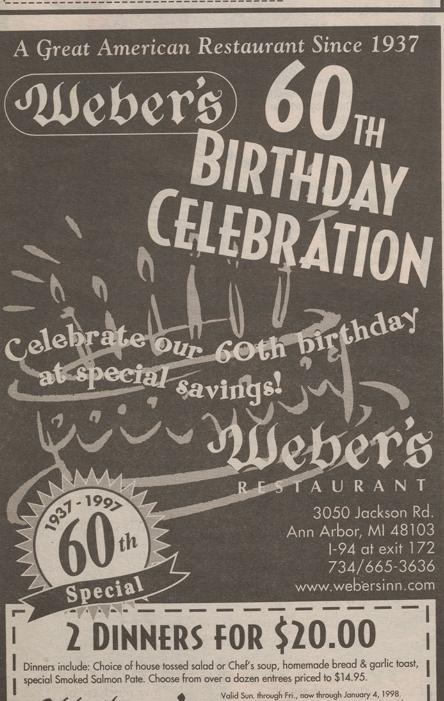
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20%OFF your total

Lunch or Dinner Bill with coupon, no double discounts anything," he says. "There's really nothing I hate to see. Except maybe prog rock . . . you know, the stuff people get stoned to listen to."

Record Exchange doesn't have any sampling rooms or stations, but according to Pokorny, if customers aren't sure about a used item, store clerks will put a note on the price sticker so the customer can take it home, listen, and bring it back. "We also encourage customers to take home used CDs, tape them, and bring them back within two weeks," explains Pokorny, ignoring the infrequently prosecuted copyright violation inherent in the practice. "That way, we can charge them a dollar or two and give them the rest of their money back."

By the way, if you're still devoted to vinyl, you can sell records to the Ann Arbor Record Exchange, but you can't buy them. "We take records in trade," says Pokorny. "But unfortunately, we don't have room to display them, so we send them to one of our larger stores."

Record Exchange, 1317 South University, 997–9211. Mon.—Thurs. 11:30 a.m.—7:30 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m.—7:30 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.—7 p.m. Closed Sundays.

202050

Last month's Marketplace Changes column confused Azure's three owners, Marcus, Mike, and Amal Sabbagh. Mike Sabbagh is a silent partner in the restaurant, and was not interviewed for our article. Marcus Sabbagh, who was interviewed and photographed, is the one who's marrying Amal.

Closings

The new Kroger going up on South Maple should boost foot traffic for area businesses, but not soon enough for Bob Perry, who closed his Maple Ridge Antiques on South Maple in early November.

It's been a hard-luck location for Perry, who owns the building. For many years he operated Westland Furniture there, but closed it five years ago when business proved disappointing. He first rented the space out to an antique mall operator, then took on the business himself when the antique dealer wanted out in 1995.

Now Perry plans to expand what was once a small climate-controlled storage facility in the back of the space throughout the entire 77,000-square-foot building. He hopes to have 700 units available for rent in sizes ranging from five-by-five to ten-by-fifteen within the next year.

Follow-up

Five years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column reported eighteen new openings; all but five are still open. Mitch's Place, the second restaurant to replace Bicycle Jim's on South University, is among the survivors, as is Footprints, whose second store at Church and South University has since been followed by a third store downtown. To the north, China Merchandise, in Plymouth Mall, and the Busch's Valu Land supermarket in Plymouth-Green are still going strong. Other five-year survivors include the Hyundai Ann Arbor dealership, on Jackson Road; the Amezcua brothers' resurrected version of Lovin' Spoonful, on Main Street; Marian Draugalis's handmade doll workshop, Draugalis Studio, on West Huron; Arbor Vacuum's second store, on Carpenter Road; Mir's Oriental Rugs, on Main; Espresso Royale Caffe's Packard-State location; the Old Country Buffet, in Cranbook Center; Seoul Corner, on East William; and Whole Foods Market, in Lamp Post Plaza (see story above).

Quizno's Classic Subs didn't make the cut; it's since been replaced by another deli-cafe at Liberty and Fifth. The Dollar\$Buster store, in South University's Galleria, is gone, as is Fourth Avenue's What Next?!, a store named for the unforeseeable nature of its stock rather than its own uncertain future. Ruby Tabu didn't survive its move from State Street to Washtenaw, and Jim Glahn closed his Liberty Street poster store, Art Rage, not long after it opened. Glahn has since also closed his Signed Designs store two doors down, and is concentrating on his remaining store, Gallery Von Glahn, on Main Street.

December 1992 survival rate: 72 percent

101010

One year ago this month, the Changes column reported nine retail and restaurant openings. Four have closed: the Cinnabon concession inside the Plymouth Road Kroger; a used clothing store called Repeat Performance, on Jackson Road; Rebecca Berman's Berman Gallery and Lighting Studio, in the Market Place building next to the Farmer's Market; and Constance Bassil's Art Deco Design Studio, also in the Market Place. A call to the old Art Deco Design phone number elicits Bassil's home phone number; she's on vacation until mid-December, and her house sitter didn't know whether she had plans to open another store.

Still going strong: Brewbakers bakery/brewery, in Kerrytown; the Dixboro Dulcimer Store, on Plymouth Road; Abe's Coney Island, on South Industrial; Main Mart, on Main Street; and Ann Arbor Flowers and Garden Center, on Washtenaw.

December 1996 survival rate: 56 percent

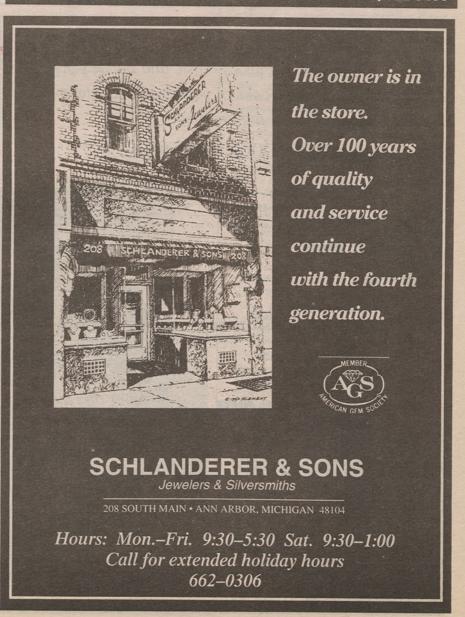
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Got a retail or restaurant change? Leave voice mail at 769–3175, ext. 364, or send E-mail to lmaao@aol.com.

TM







University Musical Society



Itzhak Perlman In the Fiddler's House

The Klezmatics Brave Old World The Klezmer Conservatory Band and The Andy Statman Klezmer Orchestra Tuesday, December 2, 8 p.m.

HILL AUDITORIUM Klezmer-mania! That's the only word that could possibly describe the excitement at Hill Auditorium when violin superstar Itzhak Perlman joins four Klezmer bands for a Klezmer summit inspired by his bestselling CD, In the Fiddlers House.

This performance is presented through the generous support of KMD Foundation and McKinley Associates

Handel's Messiah

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra UMS Choral Union

Thomas Sheets, conductor Nicole Heaston, soprano David Daniels, countertenor John Aler, tenor Nathan Berg, bass

Saturday, December 6, 8 p.m. Sunday, December 7, 2 p.m.

Since 1879 Ann Arbor has celebrated the holiday season with this most joyous oratorio. Be on hand for this 119th year of performances with a stellar cast of renowned soloists and Ann Arbor's own UMS Choral Union and Symphony Orchestra and join in for a spirited "Hallelujah!"

These performances are presented through the generous support of Dr. James and Millie Irwin

This Month's **Educational Events:**

Klezmer Summit

PREP: "The Spirit of Yiddish Folklore. Then and Now," Mark Slobin, Professor of Music Weslevan University, Tuesday 2, 4 p.m., Michigan League, Kuenzel Room

The Harlem Nutcracker

Reading: "Links to Literature." Members of the Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links, Inc. read and tell stories from the Hatlem Renaissance. Master of Arts Interview: Donald Byrd, Choreographer of The Harlem Nutcracker, is interviewed by Kimberly Camp, President.

Museum of African American History, Detroit Monday, December 8, 7 p.m. Rackham

Exhibit: "Family, Friends, and a Sense of Community: African Americans in the 1920s and 1930s," Curated by the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Ann Arbor. On display during all Harlem Nutcracker

313.764.2538

http://www.ums.org



December Events

The Harlem Hutcracker

Donald Byrd/The Group Choreography by Donald Byrd Music composed by Duke Ellington and David Berger

Wednesday, December 10, 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 11, 8 p.m. Friday, December 12, 8 p.m. Saturday, December 13, 2 p.m. Saturday, December 13, 8 p.m. Sunday, December 14, 2 p.m. Sunday, December 14, 8 p.m. POWER CENTER

If you missed last season's five soldout performances of the smashing Harlem Nutcracker, don't worry. The most talked-about event of the season is back! Donald Byrd's jazzy version of the famous holiday tale with a live jazz orchestra, regional gospel choir and children's casts is set in 1920s and 1990s Harlem. With outrageous costumes and spectacular sets, these performances feature Duke Ellington's arrangement of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and a vivid array of dance and music from swing to gospel to hip-hop. Don't miss out on the hottest ticket in town.

The Harlem Nutcracker is presented with support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Audiences for the Performing Arts Network. Additional support comes from Arts Midwest, a regional arts organization serving America's heartland, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts



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DECEMBER 3 THROUGH 17

ANDRE RIEU

THE CHRISTMAS I LOVE

Friday, December 5, at 9 p.m.

YANNI

Sunday, December 7,



VOICES OF SCOTLAND A VISUAL JOURNEY

Monday, December 8, at 8 p.m.

GAEL FORCE AN IRISH MUSIC

Tuesday, December 9, at 8 p.m.

IPI NTOMBI AN AFRICAN DANCE CELEBRATION

Wednesday, December 10, at 8 p.m.



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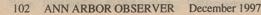
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DECEMBER EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Who to write to:

Mail press releases to John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. (There is an after-hours drop box at the front door.) NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE, but faxes are welcome or send E-mail to events@arbor-web.com. Fax numbers are: 769-3375 or 769-2147. The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available on arborweb: http://www.arborweb.com.

What gets in?

With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and telephone of a contact person. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (usually the 2nd Friday of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by Tuesday, December 9, will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in.

FILM SOCIETIES on and off campus

Basic info:

Tickets \$4 unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviations for film societies:

CH—Canterbury House 665-0606. CCS—U-M Center for Chinese Studies 764-6308. CG—Cinema Guild 994-0027. CJS—U-M Center for Japanese Studies 764-6307. Chelsea—Chelsea Film Society. \$4.50 (children 12 & under and seniors 65 & over, \$2). 475–4596, 475–2955. FV— Program in Film & Video Studies 764–0147. GH—German House 764-2152. HILL—Hill Street Cinema 769–0500. IWW—Industrial Workers of the World. M-FLICKS—University Activities Center. \$2. 763–1107. MTF—Michigan Theater Foundation. \$6.50 (children, students, & seniors, \$5; MTF members, \$4.50). 668-8480.

Abbreviations for locations:

AADL—Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. AH-A—Angell Hall Auditorium A. Canterbury—Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. Chelsea—Chelsea Depot, Jackson at Main St., Chelsea Chrysler—Chrysler Center Auditorium, 2121 Bonisteel Blvd., North Campus. EQ—Room 126 East Quad, East University at Hill.

German House—603 Oxford at Geddes Ave. Hillel—Green Auditorium, Hillel Foundation, 1429 Hill St. IWW—International Workers of the World headquarters, 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti I lanti. Lorch—Lorch Hall (Old Architecture Building), Tappan at Monroe. Mich.—Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty. MLB—Modern Languages Building, E. Washington at Thayer. Nat. Sci.-Natural Science Building, 830 North University at Thayer.

* Denotes no admission charge.

Cross listings: to save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first the first wednesday listings. the first Wednesday

www.arborweb.com

1 MONDAY

"Rockin' For the Hungry": WIQB/Busch's Valu Land/Food Gatherers. December 1-6. Local rock bands and other entertainers perform 24 hours a day all week long to attract donations for the hungry. WIQB broadcasts live throughout each day. Also, a "Harmonizin' for the Hungry" choral concert is held December 5 (see listing). 6 a.m. today–2 p.m. December 6, Busch's Valu Land, 2240 S. Main. Free (donations of canned goods or cash welcome). 761-2796.

*Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. Every Monday. All invited to join this independent local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Gini Robison directs. 10–11:45 a.m., Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 520 W. Jefferson at Fourth St. Free to first-time visi-



The Nutcracker, Dec. 19-21.

E17, Dec. 19.

CALENDAR

GALLERIES

119 EXHIBIT OPENINGS 119 GALLERY REVIEW 'Fifteen Visions'

Jennifer Dix

Susan Kevorkian

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

137 NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE

137 NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW Jo Serrapere: A bright future John Hinchey

Alan Goldsmith

DECEMBER EVENTS

EVENTS REVIEWS

109 DAN MINOCK A way of holding still

115

BEAUSOLEIL Revivalism at its best

THE INCREDIBLE BORIS A night at the beach

THE TRUCE The path from Auschwitz

156 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

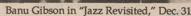
Keith Taylor

James M. Manheim

Kate Conner-Ruben

Frank Beaver







Ken Burns, Dec. 13.

tors (\$30 per semester membership dues). 677-0678, 663-5907.

*Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. Every Monday. Activities begin at 10 a.m. with an educational program. This month: "Musical Comedy Video Series," a series of video showings of film adaptations of Broadway musical comedies. of him adaptations of Broadway musical comedies. The weekly program also includes meetings of the creative writing group Words for Ourselves, Our Children, Our Community (1 p.m.). Also, at noon, a homemade luncheon buffet (\$4, \$3 with reservations). All invited. 10 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.

Weekly Luncheon Series: M Club of Ann Arbor. December 1, 8, & 15. A lunchtime talk by U-M head football coach Lloyd Carr, with other speakers to be announced (usually another U-M coach and a student athlete). 11:30 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Lunch cost: \$6.75 (seniors, \$6.25). For more information, call Fred Model at 475-3542.

"Beginners Guide to the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library. December 1, 13, 15, & 17. A hands-on introduction to Web basics, including how to use browsing software and other Internet features. Open to all AADL library card holders. Note: Free versions of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, are offered at the West (December 3, 8:30 a.m.), Northeast (December 3, 8:30 a.m.), and Loving (December 10, 7 p.m., & December 18, 3 p.m.) branches. Also, a free demonstration of Web hastis (Medical Control of the Con stration on Web basics (no registration required) is offered at the main library at 7 p.m. on December 9. 2 p.m. (December 1 & 15), 11 a.m. (December 13) & 7 p.m. (December 17), Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. Nightly through December 31. Some 900,000 lights are used to decorate the trees and grounds of Domino's Farms in this annual holiday show. New this year are several animated light sets, including a Noah's Ark, a bell choir, and an angel tree. Live sheep and cattle from the petting farm can be seen grazing on the grounds. Indoor attractions include a hands-on Christmas ornament workshop, a Winter Wonderland display complete with a moving kiddie train, a Festival of Trees featuring a hallway lined with Christmas trees decorated by area merchants, and a creche display of more than 200 Nativity scenes from around the world collected by Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan. Refreshments and live entertainment. Also, anyone with Web access can send an electronic postcard with pictures of the display (Web site: www.spiritofchristmas.org/). Proceeds benefit area charities. Nightly 6-10 p.m., Domino's Farms, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Admission \$5 per vehicle (Mon.-Thurs.), \$7 per vehicle (Fri.-Sun.). Buses: \$50.930-4430.

*"A Course in Miracles." Every Monday. All invited to discuss spiritual issues raised by A Course in Miracles, Helen Shuchman's book of transcriptions of her channelings of new teachings of Jesus. 6:45 p.m., Unity Church of Ann Arbor, 4599 Carpenter Rd. (just south of the 1-94 overpass). Free. 434-8545

*Ann Arbor Go Club. December 1, 7, 15, & 21. Players of all ages and ability levels invited to play this ancient board game. Go equipment and basic instruction provided. 7–10 p.m. (December 1 & 15) & 1–5 p.m. (December 7 & 21), Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free, 663-1675.

Weekly Meeting: Dream Group. Every Monday. All invited to discuss their dreams from a Jungian perspective. Discussion facilitator is local social worker Rebecca Mullen. 7–9:30 p.m., location to be inced. \$5 donation. 662-5925.

*"Early Bird" Class: Bradley Method of Natural Childbirth. A monthly meeting designed to help pregnant couples discuss issues and learn about pregnancy services in the area. Tonight's topic: "Yoga for Pregnancy." 7-9 p.m., Friends Meeting-house, 1416 Hill St. Free. 475-0022, 426-2151.

★"Ecological Design": People's Food Co-op. Showing of video interviews with Paolo Soleri, Amory Lovins, John Todd, and Buckminster Fuller on natural building, renewable energy, and ecological technology. Followed by a discussion led by Deanne Bednar, who is currently building a strawbale-cob studio in Oakland County, and a meeting to set up a local sustainable building network. 7-9 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769-0095.

at Domino's Farms

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Oxperience a festive drive-through light display with new animated light sets. Come indoors for activities such as the Celebration of Trees, a Winter Wonderland with a miniature electric train, a "Christmas Around the World" Creche Exhibit, a Christmas Gift Store, and many beautiful and exciting decorations. All proceeds will benefit children and charities in Southeastern Michigan this Holiday season. So, please join us and experience the gift of giving.

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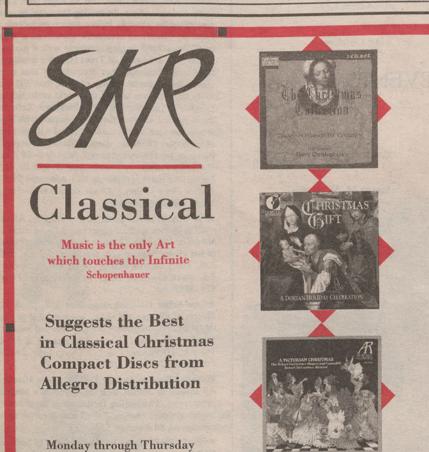
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EVENTS continued

*Weekly Meeting: Huron Valley Toastmasters. Every Monday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the U-M Hospital cafeteria. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). 7–9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: \$48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 663-1836.

*Weekly Meeting: The Shire of Cynnabar (Society for Creative Anachronism). Every Monday. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Each meeting features a workshop on re-creating a different aspect of me-dieval culture, including heraldry, costuming, embroidery, and other crafts. 7 p.m., 1305 Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1311 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, call Chuck Cohen at 764-4317.

*Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus. Every Monday. Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. 7:15–9:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2215 Platt Rd. Free. 741–8000, ext. 140.

Insight Meditation (Vipassana) Sitting Group: Deep Spring Center. December 1, 2, 8, & 9. All invited to join this group for 45 minutes of meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. The Monday sessions are for experienced meditators only; beginners are welcome at the Tuesday sessions. Beginning instructions available by reserva-tion at 7 p.m. before the Tuesday sessions. Followed tion at 7 p.m. before the Tuesday sessions. Followed by a meditation class (8:30–10 p.m.) with discussion (donation requested). The program is led by Barbara Brodsky, an Ann Arborite who teaches meditation locally and around the U.S. Bring a cushion to sit on Participants are asked to arrive by 7:15 p.m. 7:30–8:15 p.m., 3455 Charing Cross (off Packard just west of US-23). Donations accepted; preregistration requested. For information, call Hal at tration requested. For information, call Hal at 971-3455.

*Kindergarten Night: Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. All parents invited to meet HDS kindergarten teacher Wendy Rothman and learn about its full-day kindergarten program. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Hebrew Day School, 2937 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-4633.

*Monthly Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Music and stands provided. Also, the group holds its monthly small ensemble (5-10 players) meeting on December 15. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School choir room, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free to first-time visitors (\$30 annual dues). 665-5758.

'Monday Evenings with Stephen McLean": LifeTouch Chiropractic. December 1 & 15. A series of talks by this local chiropractor. This month: "Network Chiropractic's Influence on Environmental Illness" (tonight) and "Transformation Through Network Chiropractic Care and the 12 Stages of Healing" (December 15). 8 p.m., Life-Touch Chiropractic, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668-6110.

*Gary Paul Nabhan: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This MacArthur-winning ecologist, a cofounder of Native Seeds/SEARCH and director of science at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, reads from The Culture of Habitat, his recently published collection of essays exploring the complex connections between nature and people. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.

"Contact Improvisation Dance and Acoustic Jam": Magic Dragon Studios. Every Monday. All invited to participate in contact improvisation, a highly physical form of dance described as "a sensuous meltdown of jitterbug, judo, and mud wrestling." Participants should have some experience in dance, acrobatics, martial arts, or other movement techniques. Acoustic musicians who want to provide music admitted free. 8:30-11 p.m., location to be announced. \$5 suggested donation (partners, kids, homeschoolers, and acoustic musicians admitted free). For information, call Jean Louise Balliet at 663-8073.

★"Women Wordsmiths, Strong Songs": Guild House Writers Series. Performances by local performance poet Deb Marsh and three local singersongwriters, Whitley Setrakian, Lisa Hunter, and Jennifer Jean Smith. 8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839, 662–5189.

HILL. "Over the Ocean" (Jacob Goldwasser.

1992). Charming seriocomedy about a boy growing up in 1960s Tel Aviv. Hebrew, subtitles. Hillel, 8:30 p.m. MTF. "Cooley High" (Michael Schultz, 1975). Comedy about an inner-city Chicago high school in 1964. Mich., 4:10 p.m. "The Wings of the Dove" (Iain Softley, 1997). December 1-4. Adaptation of Henry James's novel about an American heiress caught in an intrigue with a British couple who want to appropriate her wealth. Alison Elliott, Helena Bonham Carter, Linus Roache. Mich., 7 &

2 TUESDAY

*Visitor's Day: Community Bible Study. All invited to join this interdenominational Bible study group that meets weekly to discuss the book of Daniel. No previous Bible study required. 9:15-11:15 a.m., Grace Bible Church, 1300 S. Maple; and 7:30-9 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 7171 Broadway. Free. 327-0378,

"Library On-Line Catalog": Ann Arbor District Library. Library staffers offer a hands-on introduction on how to use the library's electronic catalog, which can be accessed in the library or remotely, through the library Web site (www.annarbor.lib.mi. us). Note: A free version of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, is offered at the West branch, December 17, 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.

"Today's Teens: Issues and Concerns": Washte-naw Area Council for Children. Part of a series of talks aimed at parents of teens. Today: A representa-tive from Planned Parenthod of Mid-Michigan dis-cusses "Postponing Sexual Involvement." Noon-2 p.m., Washtenaw County Library Learning Resource Center, 2201 Hogback Rd. \$5 includes buffet lunch. Reservations required. 761–7071.

★Sur: Ann Arbor District Library "Downtown Sounds" Concert Series. Andean folk tunes performed on a variety of traditional instruments by the acclaimed local trio of Cecilia Courtois, Hector Courtois, and Guillermo Arenas. 12:10-1 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 345 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 994–2333.

"Plains Nations of North America": ArtVentures Studio (Ann Arbor Art Center). Daily (except Mondays). Children and parents are invited to make art projects associated with Native American tribes. including buffalo robe paintings, feather fans, parfleche containers, and beaded necklaces. 1-6 p.m. (Tues.-Fri.), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Sat.), & noon-5 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Admission \$4 per hour when accompanied by parent, \$6 per hour unaccompanied (for a maximum of 2 hours). Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Adults assisting a child admitted free. Free admission the first Sunday of each month. 994-8004,

*Drop-in Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. December 2-4 & 9-11. Stories, songs, and finger plays for preschoolers age 3 and up. An adult must be present in the library but need not attend. This week's topic: "Bedtime." Also, this month: "Snow" (December 9–11). Note: Drop-in storytimes are also offered at 9:30 a.m. at the West (December 2 & 9), Loving (December 3 & 10), and Northeast (December 4 & 11) branches. 4-4:30 p.m. (Tuesdays), 6:30-7 p.m. (Wednesdays), & 10:30-11 a.m. (Thursdays), Ann Arbor District Library multipur-pose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

*"The Spirit of Yiddish Folklore: Then and Now": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies/Center for Russian and Eastern Euro-pean Studies/Department of Anthropology. Wesleyan University ethnomusicologist Mark Slobin discusses the freewheeling spirit of East European Jew-ish folklore, touching on klezmer life and music, and the folk drama Purimshpil. With live musical examples by some of the performers taking part in tonight's klezmer concert, "In the Fiddler's House" (see below). 4 p.m., Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. Free. 763-9047.

★Jonis Agee: U-M English Department/Borders Books and Music. This acclaimed fiction writer, a U-M creative writing professor, reads from South of Resurrection, her new novel about a woman who re turns to the Missouri town she fled at age 16, to sell her parents' home. Marge Piercy has praised Agee's fiction for its "clear and unsentimental eye for our cruelties, our wishes, our attempts to love, and our attempts to be free." 4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 764-6296.

*Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. December 2-5 (different programs). U-M opera stu-dents perform scenes operas. Today: Cavalli's L'Or-mindo, Gluck's Orfeo, and Braxton Blake's Measure

104 ANN ARBOR OBSERVER December 1997

9:00 - 9:00

Friday and Saturday

9:00 - 10:00

Sunday

11:00 - 7:00

539 East Liberty Street

Ann Arbor Michigan 48104

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for Measure. 5 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763–4726.

"Getting the Support You Need": St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. December 2 & 16. A registered dietitian gives an informal presentation on losing weight and maintaining healthy eating habits. 6 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5301 E. Huron River Dr. \$5. To register, call 712–5400 or (800) 231–2211.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas, See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*"String Figure Fun": Ann Arbor District Library. Local string figure artist Marcia Gaynor shows how to make a cat's cradle and other string figures. For kids age 8 & older. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library youth department (1st floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327-8301.

*Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Tuesday. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 24th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. 7 p.m., U-M Track & Tennis Bldg., Hoover at S. State. Free. 663–9740.

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Rocky Road Advanced Contra-English Dance. December 2 & 16. Peter Baker, Eric Arnold, and Charles Roth lead dancing to music by David West and Donna Baird. All dances taught; no partner required. 7–9:45 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. \$4.662–5158.

Monthly Meeting: Women Business Owners of Southeast Michigan. All women who own or would like to start a business are invited to join a discussion on "Achieving Balance in Our Lives." Informal networking a half hour before the meeting. 7–8:30 p.m., 777 Eisenhower at S. State. \$10 (members, free). Reservations required. Call Monica Milla at 332–9300.

*"Introduction to Holistic Healing": Bio Energy Medical Center. Holistic practitioner James Neuenschwander and his staff discuss natural healing through chiropractic, homeopathy, acupuncture, colon hydrotherapy, and massage. 7 p.m., Bio Energy Medical Center, 412 Longshore. Free, but space is limited; reservations required. 995–3200.

*Bieekly Meeting: Huron Valley Greens/U-M Student Greens. December 2 & 16. The Greens are a political organization working to integrate the issues of ecologically sound living, grassroots democracy, justice, and nonviolent action. Today's program is a discussion of Greens philosophy. 7–9 p.m., Michigan League location to be announced. Free. 663–3555

*"Druidic Lore and Magical Tradition": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove, December 2 & 16. Members of this local pagan group present an introductory lecture on "Druidic Lore" (7–8:30 p.m.), and instruction on the "Magical Tradition" (8:30–10 p.m.; preregistration required). 7–10 p.m., Ancient Formula Natural Foods & Herbs, 1677 Plymouth Rd. (in the Courtyard Shops below Subway). Free. To reserve a spot in "Magical Tradition," call Johnna at 485–8632.

*German Speakers' Round Table. Every Tuesday. All German speakers invited to join for conversation and coffee in a relaxed atmosphere, followed by beer and more conversation at a nearby pub. 7 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free. (313) 685-4204.

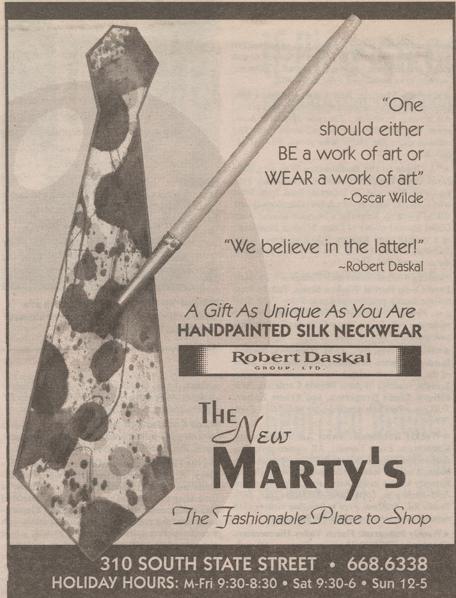
*Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Area Knitters Club. Every Tuesday. Knitters of all levels of experience are invited to join this group that meets weekly to knit together and share techniques and ideas. 7-9 p.m., Brookhaven Manor Retirement Community, 401 Oakbrook Dr. Free. 747-6383.

*"Financial Aid Night": Community High School Parent, Teacher, & Student Organization. Talk by EMU financial aid associate director Denise Ostrander. 7–9 p.m., Community High School Craft Auditorium, 401 N. Division. (Parking available in the lot behind the school at N. Fifth Ave. and Detroit St.). Free. 994–2027.

*Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. December 2, 9, & 16. Local professionals discuss substance abuse and related issues. Tonight: social worker Ronald Harrison talks about "Adolescent Substance Abuse." 7:30 p.m., Dawn Farm, 6633 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free; donations accepted. 485–8725.

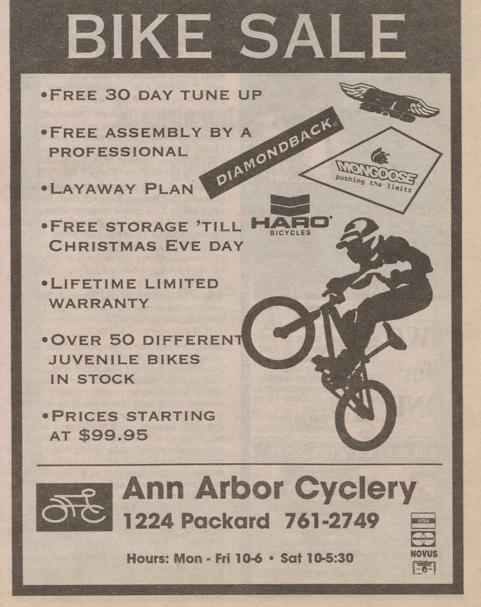
*Biweekly Meeting: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club. December 2 & 16. All invited to learn about the ski club's various excursions and social events. Tonight: discussion of equipment. Also this month, potluck and planning for a trip to Marquette (December 16). 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–SKIS.

*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Smocking Group, Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those









COMEDY JAM / OPEN MIKE Tuesday

A comedy cavalcade of amateur and professional comics invade the stage. Hosted by Kirkland Teeple

Wednesday TOTALLY UNREHEARSED THEATRE

Weekends THURSDAY thru SATURDAY

and cable comedy shows. For a complete ion of this month's entertainment, see the

FEATURING IN DECEMBER

The Incredible Boris December 4-7 & December 11-14 Special Sunday Matinees! Bring the kids!

performance of this amazing Hypnotist as he takes people to distant beaches,





JUDY **TENUTA** December 19 & 20

Grammy award winning, hysterically funny package of political incorrectness, ne flowery princess "charms Ann Arbor this weekend!

New Year's Eve!! Jackie Flynn



SHOWTIMES

8:30 & 10:30pm 8:30 & 10:30pm

THURSDAY OR FRIDAY

This coupon valid for 2 GA for the price of 1 paid GA admission Thurs. or Fri. Expires December 26, 1997 General Admission seating availability only.

Excludes select showtimes & special engagements.

Includes Sun. Mat. Dec 7 & 14

2:30pm 2:30pm Call 996-9080 for more information!

TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY

for

This coupon valid for two FREE genera admissions Tues. or Wed. Expires December 47, 1997 G A seating availability only. Excludes select showtimes & special engagements. Call 996-9080 for more information!

EVENTS continued

interested in smocking, the English art of embroidering by gathering cloth in regularly spaced round tucks, and heirloom sewing. All invited. 7:30 p.m., location to be announced. Free. 663-7867.

*Biweekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Camera Club. Club members show their recent slides and prints. All invited. 7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free (\$10 annual dues for those who join). 663-3763,

*"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Tuesday. Talk by Gelek Rinpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who currently lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Rinpoche's longtime student Aura Glaser (former owner of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore) or a visiting guest speaker. 7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 211 E. Ann. Free, but donations are accepted. 994-3387.

"Making Herbal Salves and Tinctures": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series. Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. 7:30-9:30 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. \$3 materials fee. Space limited; preregistration requested. 994-3409.

★"Women Writers": U-M "Genders, Bodies, Borders" Theme Semester. December 2-4. Some of the area's best women writers share their work Tonight, readings by poets Brenda Cardenas, Julie Ellison, Linda Gregerson, and Arlene Keizer. 7:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 764-9537.

*Weekly Rehearsal: Sweet Adelines County Connection. Every Tuesday. All women invited to drop in and listen to or participate in the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus, formerly known as the Ann Arbor Sweet Adelines 7:30-10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Union Hall, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to first-time visitors (\$18 monthly dues for those who join). 995–4110.

★Weekly Rehearsal: Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Every Tuesday. All male singers invited to attend the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. Visitors welcome. 7:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadi-um. Free to first-time visitors (\$70 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call John Hancock

Swing Dance Jam. Every Tuesday. Swing dancing, including the jitterbug, the lindy hop, and other styles, to recorded music at an informal dance on a wooden dance floor. Experienced dancers share different moves. Beginners welcome; no partner necessary. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Gretchen's House V Barn, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). \$2. 973-2654.

★Weekly Meeting: Ypsilanti Community Band. Every Tuesday. All musicians invited to join this 50member community band directed by Ken Bowman. Music & stands provided. Visitors welcome. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard Rd. at Hewitt. Free. 485-4048, 482-7670.

*"Remote Sensing Images for Ecological Investigations": U-M Science Research Club. Slide-illustrated talk by U-M natural resources adjunct professor William Anderson, also director of applications development for Daedalus Enterprises. Refreshments. 7:30-9 p.m., G-390 Dental Bldg., 1011 North University. (Entrance is from 3rd level of the Fletcher St. parking structure.) Free. 763-2566, 761-4320.

★Open Mike Poetry Night: Barnes & Noble. All poets invited to read their work. Prizes. Listeners welcome. Free coffee. 8–10 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.

Sandy Lawson: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. This local comic and self-described "spoken word yahoo," a member of the 1997 Ann Arbor National Slam team, performs "Shame on Me," her irreverent onewoman seven-character comedy exploring the sexual, moral, and spiritual dimensions of the art of keeping secrets. Lawson's performance is preceded by open mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologuists in verse, and a "poetry slam," in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a \$10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. The evening concludes with a second open mike so following the featured reading. 8 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. \$3. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

★Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Edward Parmentier directs this U-M music-student ensemble in choral and instrumental chamber works by Bach, Byrd, Lassus, Handel, Couperin, and Cler-



Nine of Ypsilanti's historic homes are open to the public for a "Holiday Homes" tour Sun., Dec. 7.

ambault. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Blanche Anderson Moore Organ Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

*Jazz Combos: U-M School of Music. U-M jazz students perform traditional and contemporary jazz. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium, Free. 763-4726.

"In the Fiddler's House": University Musical Society. A "klezmer summit" featuring world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman with some of the leading exponents of klezmer, the party music of East European Jews. Performing are The Klezmatics, a band that performs classic Yiddish music with a contemporary spirit; Brave Old World, which performs original klezmer-style songs on contemporary topics; the Klezmer Conservatory Band, one of the leaders of the contemporary klezmer revival; and the Andy Statman Klezmer Orchestra, led by clarinet and mandolin virtuoso Statman. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$20-\$50 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

International Folk Dancing: U-M Folk Dance Club. December 2 & 16. Line, circle, and couples dances from around the world. All invited; no partner needed. Beginners and onlookers welcome. 8 p.m., Gretchen's House V barn, 2625 Traver Rd. \$2 at the door. 662-4258.

*Video Planning Meeting: Peace InSight. All invited to help with the production of this local TV series on peace and social justice issues, aired on cable channel 9. 8 p.m., Espresso Royale Caffe, 214 S. Main. Free. For information, call 761-7749.

*David Dodd Lee and Rick Lyon: Shaman Drum Bookshop. These two poets read from recently published books. Lee reads from Downsides of Fish Culture, a collection of bare-boned, direct poems about the spiritual struggles of lonely, dispossessed people. Lyon reads from Bell 8, a collection of poems about loss and survival. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

*"Strategic Coaching for Dealing with Holiday Blues": Counseling Resources of Ann Arbor. Talk by local social work therapist Bob Egri. Also this month, Egri presents talks on "The Strategic Therapy Approach to Finally Learning How to Love Yourself Regardless of What You Have Done and What Has Happened to You" (December 3) and The Strategic Coaching Approach for Effectively Dealing with and Recovering from the Divorce Process" (December 4). 8:15-9:15 p.m., location to be announced. Free. Reservations requested.

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers, Every Tuesday. Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroitarea bands. All singles invited; married couples also welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dance class (\$3). Dress code observed. 8:30-11:30 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. \$5 (members, \$4), 930-0073.

Open Mike Comedy Jam: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Every Tuesday. A chance to see area professionals work on new material. Also, aspiring comics are invited to try out their acts (call the day of show to sign up). Alcohol served, 8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$1,930-0073.

FILMS

MTF. "All That Jazz" (Bob Fosse, 1979). Decem-

ber 2 & 4. The director-choreographer's look back at his career in show biz. Mich., 7 p.m. "The Wings of the Dove" (Iain Softley, 1997). See 1 Monday. Mich., 9:30 p.m. U-Club. "Mallrats" (Kevin Smith, 1995). Slice-of-life about teens who hang out in shopping malls. \$1, Free soda and popcorn. U-Club,

Holiday Bake Sale and Crafts Sale: Northeast Senior Center. A wide variety of arts and crafts and baked goods made by members of this lively senior activities group. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Domino's Farms Lobby D, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free admission. 996-0070

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. Every Wednesday and Thursday (except December 25). A series of video documentaries on art and art history. This week: "Painters Painting," a look at New York painters from 1940 to 1970. 12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Every Wednesday. A variety of activities for kids. 3:30–5:15 p.m., Buhr Park outdoor ice rink, 2751 Packard Rd. \$2.50. 971–3228.

*"Lessons from the Wolverine": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party. Ann Arborite Tom Pohrt, the brother of Shaman Drum owner Carl Pohrt, is on hand to sign copies of this new tale by Barry Lopez, which he illustrated. It is the story of a young man's journey through the Arctic wilderness in search of a family of wolverines, in order to learn about their mysterious powers. Pohrt's first collaboration with Lopez, Crow and Weasel, was a local best-seller. Refreshments. 4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 2 Tuesday. Today: operas by Donizetti, Rossini, Puccini, Offenbach, and Tchaikovsky. 5 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club. Every Wednesday (except December 24 & 31). Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). 6:15-7:45 p.m., Concordia College Manor, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: \$24 semiannual lv. 995-7351.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. CMU. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1). 764-0247.

*African-American Book Reading Club: Little Professor Book Company. All invited to discuss E. Lynne Harris's If This World Was Mine. 7-8 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. For information, call Veleria Banks at (313)

"Book Lovers Guide to the Internet": Ann Arbor District Library. Introduction to a variety of Web sites of interest to readers. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327-4550.

*"Life Support: Protecting Nursing in an Era of Corporate Health Care": Michigan Nurses Association District 51. Lecture by Suzanne Gordon, an award-winning journalist who writes about health care, nursing, and women's issues. Her books include Life Support: Three Nurses on the Front Lines. 7-9 p.m., Rackham Auditorium, Free, 426-3590.

*Informational Tour: Ancient Formula. Every Wednesday. A guided tour and explanation of the items found in this natural foods and herb emporium. 7 p.m., Ancient Formula Natural Foods & Herbs, 1677 Plymouth Rd. (in the Courtyard Shops below Subway), Free, 665-7688,

*Introductory Session: Maharishi Vedic University. Every Sunday & Wednesday. Introduction to a simple, natural meditation technique for creativity, happiness, and fulfillment. 7 p.m. (Wednesdays) & 1 p.m. (Sundays), Maharishi Vedic School (formerly known as the TM Center), 205 N. First St. at Ann. Free. 996-8686.

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wednesday (except December 24 & 31). Each twoperson team plays two or three hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. 7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) \$3 per person. 971-7530.

★"Children's Story Time": Barnes & Noble. Every Wednesday & Thursday (except December 24, 25, & 31). Barnes & Noble staffers present storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 4-9 (Wednesdays) and for preschoolers (Thursdays).

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Newcom 327-363 *Comp music stu U-M Scl 1100 Ba Free. 76.

"Roomf Blues & a swing Providen postwar ed in 19 made wi Big Joe This week: "Stories About the Dark of Night." Also this month: "Stories About Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa" (December 10 & 11), and "Holiday Stories" (December 17 & 18). 7 p.m. (Wednesdays) & 11 a.m. (Thursdays), Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.

*Student Speakers Showcase: Washtenaw Community College. WCC honors students demonstrate their public speaking skills. 7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Theater/Lecture Hall I, Student Center Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Florida International. 7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$12 & \$15.764-0247.

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Every Wednesday (except December 31). Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. 7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665-3522

*Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center. December 3, 10, & 17. All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. All invited. 7:30 p.m., 3455 Charing Cross Rd. (off Packard just west of US-23). Free, but donations are accepted. 971–3455.

*"Christian Science Testimony Meeting": First Church of Christ, Scientist. Every Wednesday. The church's lay reader reads different selections each week from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. Followed by testimony of Christian Science healing by congregation members. All invited. 7:30–8:30 p.m., First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1833 Washtenaw. Free. 662–1694.

*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Computer Society. John Dreystadt of Three Cities Software discusses "JDBC: Java Meets Relational Databases," All invited to join this club for hardware and software computer professionals interested in networks, multimedia, systems integration, object-oriented programming, C++, Unix, Windows, and other contemporary computing topics. 7:30–9:30 p.m., 1200 U-M Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences Bldg., 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. For information, use E-mail through Internet (aacsinfo@msen.com) or CompuServe (72241,155), or call 741–1199

*"Eating Disorders in Young Girls": Ann Arbor Chapter of the Michigan Association of American Mothers. Talk by local physician Toby Jacobowitz. 7:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but donations accepted. Reservations required. 741–8336.

*"Cover to Cover": Ann Arbor District Library. Book discussion group led by AADL staff focusing on books that have been or are about to be made into films. Tonight: Mary Wesley's An Imaginative Experience, a spirited love story that begins with a chance meeting. 7:30–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library lower-level Muehlig Room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Preregistration required. 327-4560.

★Lisa Lenzo: Borders Books and Music. This Michigan writer reads from her award-winning book Within the Lighted City, a collection of stories set in Detroit during the 1967 race riots. 7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.

*"Women Writers": U-M "Genders, Bodies, Borders" Theme Semester. See 2 Tuesday. Tonight: readings by fiction writers Jonis Agee, Betty Bell, Alvia Golden, Lorna Goodison, and Brenda Marshall. 7:30 p.m.

*Monthly Meeting: Scandinavian Folk Music Group. All musicians invited to join this group to perform Scandinavian folk tunes. The group is led by fiddler Bruce Sagan, who always teaches some new tunes at each meeting. (The group also meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in Lansing.) Newcomers welcome. 8 p.m., 1404 White St. Free. 327–3636.

*Composers Forum: U-M School of Music. U-M music students perform their original works. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free, 763-4726

"Roomful of Blues Holiday Party": Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festival Benefit. Roomful of Blues is a swinging, horn-driven 10-piece big band from Providence, Rhode Island, that specializes in classic postwar R&B and jump blues. The band was founded in 1970, and two of their mid-80s LPs—one made with Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson and one with Big Joe Williams—were nominated for Grammys.

"When it comes to crackling, in-the-pocket, dance-'til-you-drop rhythm and blues, in the tradition of Fats Domino's band of Joe Liggins and the Honeydrippers, Roomful of Blues is the last word," says Bay Guardian (San Francisco) reviewer Derek Richardson. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$20 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. December 3–7, 10–14, & 16–20. Guy Sanville directs this revival of actor-playwright Jeff Daniels's hit 1995 comedy, a tall tale set in the Upper Peninsula during deer season. As the Soady family prepares for their annual hunting trip, the older boy (now facing middle age) has never yet bagged a buck and fears he will be the disgrace of the family. His Native American wife gives him a magic potion to overcome his bad luck, and mysterious forces start to take over the Soadys' annual expedition. Cast includes Joseph Albright, Jim Porterfield, Phil Powers, Wayne David Parker, Randall Godwin, and Sandra Birch. Note: The show's entire run is already virtually sold out, but a few tickets may remain for selected dates; call for availability. 8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$20 (Tues.—Thurs. & Sun.) and \$25 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 475–7902.

"Totally Unrehearsed Theater": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Every Wednesday (except December 24 & 31). An evening of improvisational comedy with this acclaimed 5-member Detroit-based improv troupe whose shows also include some scripted skits and stand-up comedy. Named "Best Local Comedians" in the Metro Times 1997 Best of Detroit awards. Also, open mike performers. Alcohol served. 8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Sevarestaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$4 (students with ID, \$2), 996-9080.

Trailer Park Ninjas: U-Club. This U-M student comedy troupe presents an evening of stand-up, improv, and original sketches. Also, an open mike. *Note:* Guests not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the show. 9 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. \$3 at the door. 763–3202.

Over the Rhine: Prism Productions. Urgent, energetic heartland rock 'n' roll by this Cincinnati quartet that has released two acclaimed LPs on the I.R.S. label. Opening act is Jason Dennie, a folk-rock singer-songwriter from Cincinnati. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets; \$10 at the door. To charge by phone, call (810) 645-6666; for information, call 996-8555.

FILMS

HILL. "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (Steven Spielberg, 1981). Larger-than-life comedy-adventure film, the first in the Indiana Jones series. Harrison Ford. Hillel, 9 p.m. U-M Michigan League. "Monty Python's The Meaning of Life" (Terry Jones, 1983). Outrageously comic fantasia by the Monty Python troupe. FREE. Michigan League Underground, 8 p.m. MTF. "The Wings of the Dove" (Iain Softley, 1997). See 1 Monday. Mich., 7 & 9:15 p.m.

4 THURSDAY

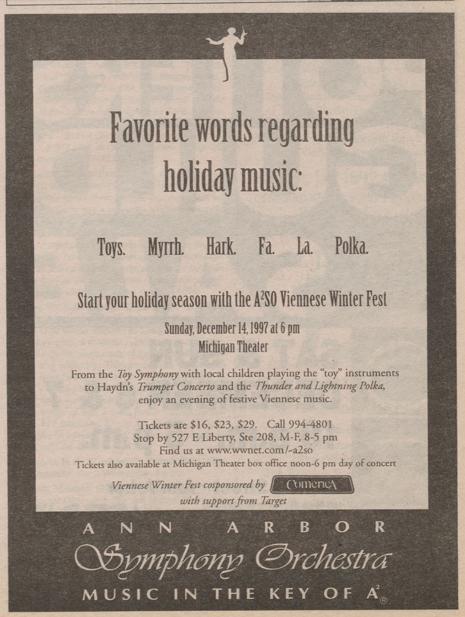
Psychic Fair: Arborland Mall. December 4-7. Area psychics offer card and palm readings and more. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Arborland Mall. Free admission. 971-1825.

"Introduction to Computers": Ann Arbor District Library. A hands-on introduction to computers, with an emphasis on such basic skills as using a mouse, opening and closing an application, formatting, saving to a disk, printing, and more. Open to all AADL library cardholders. 10 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327–4550.

*"Mindfulness and Meditation: Intersection for Mind, Body, and Spirit?" Every Thursday (except December 25). All women invited to join this women's study and support group for discussions led by retired psychotherapist Ann Schoonmaker. Resource materials are books and tapes by Jon Kabat-Zinn, author of Wherever You Go, There You Are. 10 a.m.-noon, St. Clare's Episcopal ChurchTemple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free. 761-9044.

★Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center. Every Thursday (except December 25). A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with "Let's Just





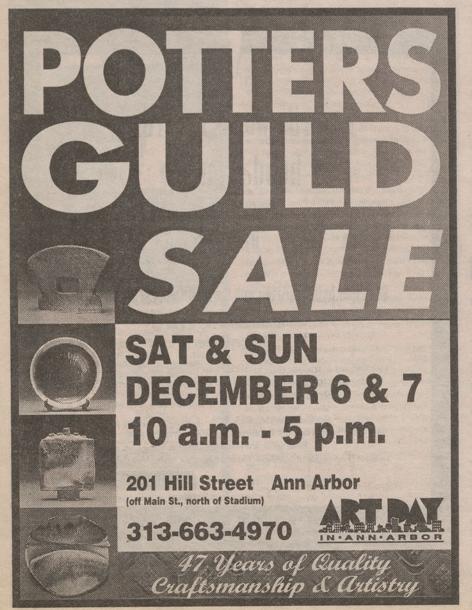
Finely detailed portraits of your home, business, or cottage.

Drawn from photographs & printable on cards or stationery.

Michael Klement, Artist

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Talk About . . . ," a series of group discussions about various practical matters. At 11 a.m., Current Events, a discussion group led by nonagenarian Ben Bagdade. At noon, a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for nonseniors). At 12:45 p.m., an educational or cultural presentation. This week: Local attorney J. Michael Meade discusses "Making Informed Legal Decisions About Durable Powers of Attorney, Patient Advocate Designations, Trusts, Wills, and Estate Taxes." Also this month, a representative from Paws with a Cause explains their program of providing dogs to assist disabled people (December 11), and Maria Orlowski, aka Miriam Winter, reads from her recently published Trains: A Memoir of Hidden Childhood During and After World War II (December 18). The weekly program concludes with a meeting of the Senior Literary Group (2 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, today only, Huron Valley Ambulance community relations assistant Michael Qualls offers free blood pressure testing (10 a.m.,—noon). All invited. 10 a.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.

50th Annual Greens Market: Women's Farm and Garden Association. A wide selection of fresh greenery arranged in wreaths, bundles, and swags for holiday decoration. Includes holly, boxwood topiary and kissing balls, and more. Also, handmade gifts and crafts. Lunch available (11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.). Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 769-9587.

★"Stories for Little Ones": Barnes & Noble. Every Thursday (except December 25). Barnes & Noble staffers present storytelling programs and craft activities for preschoolers. This week: "Stories About the Dark of Night." Also this month: "Stories About Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa" (December 11), and "Holiday Stories" (December 18). 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free 677-6475.

*Wee Ones Storytimes: Magic Carpet Books & Wonders. Every Thursday & Saturday (except December 25 & 27). Stories for children ages 2-4 accompanied by a parent. 11 a.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free. 973-8757.

★Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. December 4, 11, 14, & 18. A series of performances by area musicians. Today: classical music by several U-M medical students: tenor David Sirkin, flutist Amanda Bauer, and pianists Katherine Gold, Wennie Liao, and Grace Lin. Also this month: Christmas spirituals by singer Tiana Marquez (December 11), holiday songs by the Ann Arbor Civic Chorus (December 14, 1:30 p.m.), and a cappella music by the U-M Hospital employees vocal group Counterpoint (December 18). 12:10 p.m., University Hospital Ist-floor lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936. APTS

"Advent Noon Recital Series": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. December 4, 11, & 18. Today: "Going Solo," a program of Christmas music by the church's vocal soloists, including sopranos Julia Broxholm and Katie Hart, alto Sally Carpenter, tenor Gerry Leckrone, and bass George Dentel. The series also includes "A Festival of Bells" (December 11), with the church's Gloria Ringers and Sanctus Ringers, and a performance of Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" (December 18), with the Sine Nomine Singers, a 24-voice women's chamber chorus led by First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn, and local harpist Laurel Federbush. All invited to bring a bag lunch to eat in the social hall before the performance. 12:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, 1432 Washtenaw. \$3 (includes buffet lunch). 662–4466.

*"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. Every Thursday (except December 25). A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 9). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features one or two speakers (with no more than two graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. "Access Soapbox" shows are aired daily for one week, beginning on Sunday. 2–7 p.m., CTN studio, Edison Center, Suite LL114, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tuesday through Friday of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.

Chess Clubs: Adventures in Chess. Every Thursday (except December 25). A chance for young people age 17 & under (3:30–7:30° p.m.) and adults (7–11 p.m.) to play chess with their peers. Chess sets provided. 3:30–11 p.m., Adventures in Chess, 220 S. Main (below Main Street News). \$3 (members, free). Memberships are \$49 a year. 665–0612.

*"The Story of Social Construction": U-M Institute for Social Research. Talk by Columbia University social science professor Charles Tilly. 4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 764–8364.

*Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 2 Tuesday. Today: Cavalli's L'Ormindo, Gluck's Orfeo, and Braxton Blake's Measure for Measure. 5 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*Monthly Meeting: Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge. Networking meeting for women who have interrupted their careers to care for their children. Tonight's topic: "Kids and Computers." 7–9 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. For details, call Ann at 662–0049.

*Thursday Night Discussion: Co-Evolution Church of Ann Arbor. December 4 & 18. All welcome to join a discussion on developing a spiritually fulfilling lifestyle from an agnostic perspective. Tonight: "Maintaining a Sense of Hope," Also this month: "Developing a Spiritual Fitness Routine" (December 18). 7–9 p.m., Guild House Campus Ministry, 802 Monroe. Free. 332–9347.

*Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters. Every Thursday (except December 25). Members develop public-speaking skills in a supportive environment. A good opportunity to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). 7–9 p.m., 777 Bldg. dining room, 777 Eisenhower at S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: \$24 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 747–8206, 484–7389.

★Volunteer Orientation: Washtenaw Literacy. Volunteers are needed to help teach illiterate adults to read and write. 7–8:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. To register, call 482–0565.

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*"Sexuality and Spirituality: Exploring the Connections": Guild House Campus Ministry. Every Thursday (except December 25). Discussion group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender folks. 7–8 p.m., 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662–5189.

*"Tapping the Power of the Orisa": Washtenaw Community College. Ankhesen "Re" Auset, a local spiritualist researcher and follower of the Orisa tradition (based on the gods of the Yoruba people in West Africa), discusses the growing popularity of this practice among African-Americans. In conjunction with the exhibit "New Eyes for Ancient Gods: Yoruba Orisa in Contemporary Art." 7–8:30 p.m.; Washtenaw Community College art gallery, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.

★Fall Performing Arts and Humanities Festival: Washtenaw Community College. Following a day of dance and music workshops, performances by WCC faculty and students. Special guest is local singer-guitarist Shari Kane, who gives a lecture-performance on "The History and Impact of Delta Blues." 7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.

★"Coffee Hour": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join members of this local pagan group for coffee and discussion of "Pagan Views of Family." 7 p.m., Sweetwaters Cafe, 123 W. Washington at S. Ashley. Free. 480–2082.

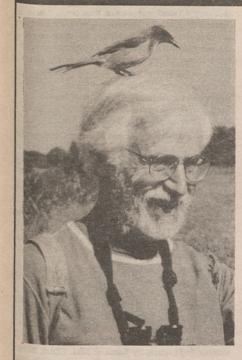
★"Mosaic Pavements of Roman and Byzantine Sepphoris": U-M Kelsey Museum. Slide-illustrated lecture by Hebrew University archaeology professor Ze'ev Weiss. Reception follows at the Kelsey Museum. 7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium D. Free. 764–9304.

★"Writing in and about Exotic Places": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by U-M film & video studies visiting professor John Briley, best known for his Oscar-winning screenplay for Gandhi. He also wrote the screenplay for Cry Freedom, which is shown at the library on December 18, and he reads from his new novel at Shaman Drum Bookshop on December 6 (see listings). 7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4265.

*Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. Every Thursday (except December 25) and Sunday (except December 28). Musicians and other entertainers present a series of family programs. 7 p.m. (Thursdays) & 2 p.m. (Sundays), Briarwood Mall Grand Court. Free. 769–9610.

*Monthly Meeting: Community Action on Sub-

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Dan Minock A way of holding still

A longtime Washtenaw Community College English instructor, Dan Minock built his own house out in Livingston County, next door to Kensington MetroPark, and has lived there for the last twenty years. He's still not completely convinced that it was a good idea. But in his first book, Thistle Journal and Other Essays, first-place winner of the Mid-List Press Award for Creative Nonfiction, he writes so well about his mistakes, his doubts, and his insecurities, that I, for one, am grateful that he suffered through them.

Minock is a nature writer who describes what he has discovered on his acre and a half-the birds, the plants, the sense of place. Some of these essays have appeared Over the years in places like Country Living and Sierra, and they include the sharp observations of the natural world that one would expect of those journals. What's unexpected is Minock's wonderful sense of humor about

his place in the world and his way of under-

In his essay "Tracking," he describes how he began, with the aid of a field guide, to learn animal tracks in the snow: "One March afternoon in the winter when I first took up tracking, I followed what I thought was the track of a fox in a field at the southwest edge of the park, beside I-96. It was not a fresh track and I followed it all afternoon, slowly realizing as I stared alternately at the marks in the snow and two separate pages in my field guide that I was on the trail of a cat." Not only that, he confesses, but he was following the trail backward. I love that image of a man in a field beside a freeway, head down, serious, intently following the trail of a cat backward.

It's funny, and Minock knows it is. Yet when he reaches out from this moment to some larger understanding, I find that his argument is stronger, rather than weaker, because he's been willing to laugh at himself:

I thought of myself as an explorer in the tradition of Christopher Columbus, seeking a new way to stillness, that most ancient of Indias. From that point of view, it didn't matter, truly, if it was a cat or a fox; didn't matter whether or not I was following it toward the animal. Better, in fact, if I was following it backward. The possibilities were greater then that the trail would end at something other than the literal animal.

The longest essay in this collection is one called "Building the Steps"— a description of Minock the novice building his own house, as well as a moving memoir of his father. Minock didn't know what he was doing; his father did. But his father was sick, dying even though no one realized it yet, and he was very cranky. Minock, though well into adulthood, was still enough of a child to resent his father's advice, even when he asked for it. The resulting essay is a small masterpiece about conflicting desires and

Dan Minock reads from Thistle Journal and Other Essays at Shaman Drum Bookshop on Friday, December 5.

-Keith Taylor

stance Abuse. All invited to help plan substance-abuse prevention activities with this local grass-roots volunteer group. 7:15 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free.

*Monthly Meeting: Huron Hills Lapidary Society. Speaker and topic to be announced. Also, mem-bers bring in rock and mineral specimens to swap, and there is a silent auction of materials from the club's collection. All invited. 7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. at Davis. Free. 665-7166.

*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Jaycees. All people ages 21–39 are invited to join this organization devoted to promoting leadership training, community service, and individual development. Discussion tonics topics to be announced. Newcomers welcome. 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., room 101, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free 912, 2020. Free. 913-9629.

"Links to Literature": Borders Books and Mu-Links to Literature": Borders Books and Music. Members of The Links, Inc., a local African-American community group, read selections from the poetry and prose of Harlem Renaissance writers and discuss their significance. 7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Wednes-

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday (except December 25). Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Gretchen's House V barn, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). \$3.769–4324.

*"Oz's Open Mike": Oz's Music. All musicians

invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Lili Fox. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Wednesday. Tonight: "Painters Painting," a look at New York painters from 1940 to 1970. 7:30 p.m.

*"Women Writers": U-M "Genders, Bodies, Borders" Theme Semester. See 2 Tuesday. Tonight: poets and fiction writers from Tuesday's and Wednesday's readings participate in a panel dis-cussion on "Why We Write." A reception and book-signing follow at Shaman Drum Bookshop.

"Stuart Little": Junior Theater (Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation)/Ann Arbor Civic Theater. December 4-7. Jeffrey Steiger directs a cast of youngsters in Joseph Robinette's stage adaptation of E. B. White's de-lightful children's book about the adventures of an intrepid mouse. 7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). Tickets \$6 (children through high school, \$5), available in advance at the AACT box office. 994-2300, ext. 23.

Hot Tuna: The Ark. Guitarist Jorma Kaukonen and bassist Jack Casady, two original members of Jefferson Airplane, formed Hot Tuna in 1970 as a progressive blues-rock outfit, and the band had several hit records. Kaukonen and Casady toured as a duo in the 80s, and their current 5-piece lineup includes drummer Harvey Sorgen, guitarist and mandolinist Michael Falzarano, and keyboardist and accordionist Pete Sears. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Open Jam": Griff's Jams. Every Thursday (except December 25). Musicians of all levels of ability invited to bring their instruments to the sound rooms formerly occupied by WPAG radio to meet other musicians, make music, and have fun. Bring sheet DJ Jim Griffin. 8-11 p.m., 106 E. Liberty (3rd floor). \$2 suggested donation. 761-MUSIC.

*Opera Workshop: EMU Music Department. December 4 & 5. EMU music professor Donald Hartmann directs EMU students in scenes from Bizet's Carmen, Mozart's Don Giovanni, Verdi's Il Trovatore, Sousa's rarely heard comic operetta El Capitan, and Floyd's American masterpiece Susannah. Piano accompanist is EMU grad student Te Min Han. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.

*Creative Arts Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Ed Sarath directs this adventurous U-M student ensemble in jazz and contemporary music. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763–4726.

"Princess Ida": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. December 4-7. Mary Locker directs this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert & Sullivan's comic operetta about a feminist princess who rebels against her arranged marriage and retreats to Castle Adamant, where she runs a college for women. The intended bridegroom, Prince Hilarion, and his two best friends disguise themselves as women in order to infiltrate Ida's fortress—meanwhile, Hilarion's father takes Ida's father, an inveterate grumbler, prisoner and proceeds to make the captive king miserable by treating him with the ut-most kindness. Cast includes Andrea Leap, Gerald Aben, Liza Wirtz, Robert Sherrane, Mitch Gillet, and David Zinn. Music director is Richard Berberian. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets \$10 & \$12 (Thurs.), \$12 & \$14 (Fri.—Sun.). U-M students: \$6. Discounts for seniors, children, and groups of 20 or more (Thurs. & Sun. only). Tickets available in advance at the Mendelssohn box office or by calling 763-1085. For UMGASS information, call 761-7855.

"Guys and Dolls": EMU Theater Department. December 4-6. EMU drama professor Pirooz Aghssa directs EMU students in this popular Frank Loesser musical based on Damon Runyan's stories and characters. Set in New York City in the 1930s, the action focuses on two contrasting romances, one a long-running liaison between a nightclub singer and a professional gambler and the other an unlikely affair between a high roller and a Salvation Army sister. The lively score includes such classics as "Luck Be a Lady," "Adelaide's Lament," "If I Were a Bell," and "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat." 8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsi-lanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The the-ater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets \$5 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) in advance; \$7 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat) at the door. Group dis-counts available. 487–1221.

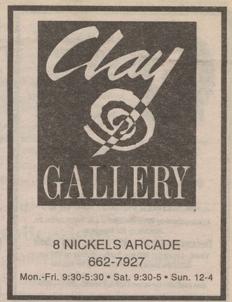
"No Exit": Peridot Productions. December 4-7. Jeff Bell directs Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist masterpiece about three people—a homicidal socialite, a lesbian, and a cowardly adulterer—imprisoned together for eternity. The veteran local cast includes Nancy Wright, Wendy Wright, and Troy Sill. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$9; Thursdays, whatever you can afford to pay) in advance by reservation and at the door. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

"Henry V": U-M Theater Department. December 4-7. U-M drama professor John Neville-Andrews directs U-M drama students in Shakespeare's popular history play, a dynamic, challenging, and intermittently sly-humored study of the nature of political power and authority. This production opens with scenes from *Henry IV Part 2* that show elements of Henry's character omitted from *Henry V*, and the staging has a very modern flavor that emphasizes the bloody horse of modern flavor that emphasizes the bloody horror of war. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$14 & \$18 (students, \$7) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–0450.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

*Weekly Meeting: Shorinji Kempo. Every Thursday (except December 25). All invited to try this Japanese self-defense system, which combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. Club members also meet weekly for noncompetitive practice. 8:30–10 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 Third St. at W. Huron. Free to first-time visitors (\$25 monthly dues). 332–1780.

The Incredible Boris: Mainstreet Comedy Show-case. December 4-7 & 11-14. (See review, p. 122.) A huge hit in his Ann Arbor debut last spring, this



THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY

Andrew Massey, Music Director and PRESENTS:

THE EMERSON STRING **OUARTET**



Andrew Massey, conductor

"The constant virtuoso display of concentration, discipline, physical energy and listening interplay was staggering." - The Boston Globe

Music for Strings, Percussion & Celesta Mozart Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra

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FRI/SAT, JAN 16/17 AT 8PM TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART PERISTYLE Tickets \$10 - \$36

> A KeyBank Pops Concert AL JARREAU



Hear five time Grammy winner Jarreau sing "Roof Garden," "We're In This Love Together," "Breakin' Away," "Boogie Down," and more.

"...the man whos sings like he's shooting the breeze... Eighty minutes of subtle perfection..." -The London Evening Standard

> SAT, JAN 24, AT 8PM STRANAHAN THEATER Tickets \$16 - \$38

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ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

invites you to celebrate the holidays with Ann Arbor's you thought you had seen every theatrical production of "A Christmas Carol" that you

The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild **Dramatic Society's Production of** A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A riotous farce by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin, Jr.
Directed by Jan Koengeter

December 18-21, 1997 at the Playhouse Thurs. - Sat eves at 8:00 p.m. Sunday Matinee at 2:0 2275 Platt Road...call 313-971-AACT for tickets

Also available for catered holiday events...call 971-0605

brighten your holiday Sunday, December 7, 4:00pm Bethlehem United Church of Christ on Fourth Ave. at William, Ann Arbor Treat yourself to some old fashioned Christmas magic Ann Arbor's premier vocal ensemble will be joined by The Honorable Donald E. Shelton. His special interpretation of Dylan Thomas' A Child's Christmas in Wales and the Contato Singages' inhibitant cinging will be shown to

to Singers' jubilant singing will surely lift your spirits. Tickets at door \$5, \$10 or call 761-9962

very popular hypnotist and mental illusionist returns for a 2-week engagement that includes kids' shows on Sundays. At his behest, audience volunteers have been known to believe they are Dr. Ruth or Elvis, impersonate cartoon characters, lose their belly but-tons, or discover they have 12 fingers. His fastpaced show is choreographed to taped music. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets \$9 (Thursdays & Sundays), \$12 (Fridays & Saturdays) for adults, \$4.50 for kids (Sundays only), in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996-9080.

EVENTS continued

MTF. "All That Jazz" (Bob Fosse, 1979). See 2 Tuesday. Mich., 5 p.m. "The Wings of the Dove" (Iain Softley, 1997). See 1 Monday. Mich., 7:30 &

5 FRIDAY

2nd Annual "British Christmas" Holiday Bazaar: Toad Hall. Every Friday through Sunday through December 21. Holiday bazaar of imported British foods, accessories, gifts, hand-painted antiques, and holiday decorations. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Fri.), 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Toad Hall, 703 Wildwood Lane, York Twp. Free admission. 426-6113.

Craft Show: Homespun Creations. December 5 & 6. Crafters from throughout the Midwest offer basketry, jewelry, tole painting, folk art dolls, quilting, pottery, holiday items, stained glass, flowers, clothing, wood toys, silk and dried flowers, candles, needlework, and more. Food concessions. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$2 admission. Wheelchair-accessible; no strollers. 429-2221.

*15th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. December 5-8. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit features almost 900 creches (Nativity scenes) from 81 countries collected or designed by women of the church. It features rooms devoted to miniature creches and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, cornhusks, and paper, and styles range from simple childlike figures to hand-carved traditional figures to elegant original designs. They range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to creches with 18-inch figures. This year's show features around 100 new exhibits, including an antique Neapolitan creche. Also, a Christmas tree decorated with hand-made ornaments. Today's program includes a Christmas concert (7:30-8:30 p.m.) featuring performances by organist Karen Madsen, oboist Amy Brough, an instrumental ensemble directed by Nicholas Johnson, the vocal ensemble One Accord, vocalist Jennifer Larson, and two vocal duos: Lisa Sorenson and Cassandra Cooper, and Elizabeth Hedquist and Brenda Brown. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 665-7852, 668-2477, 663-3699

★"Kaleidoscope: Musical Colors": EMU Music Department. This children's concert by the EMU University Symphony Orchestra is highlighted by Britten's Young People's Guide to the Orchestra, narrated by retired EMU theater professor Harry Bowen. Also, Ives's Variations on America, J. Chattaway's Mazama, and Ron Nelson's Rocky Point Holiday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

Psychic Fair: Arborland Mall. See 4 Thursday. 10

*"Love and Sex/Violence and Patriarchy": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. Interdisciplinary panel discussion with 3 U-M graduate fellows. Art history fellow Lara Blanchard discusses "Reveling in the Company of Courtesans: The (Mis)Representation of Romance in a Song Dynasty Painting," anthropology fellow Coralynn Davis discusses "Janakpur Women Paint the Future: Representing Women's Development and Global Sisterhood Within and Against White Supremacist Patriarchal Capitalism," and anthropology fellow Julie Hastings discusses "Gendered Violence/Gendered Representation: State-Sponsored Rape in a Guatemalan Refugee Community." Noon-2 p.m., LS&A Executive Conference Room, 2553 LS&A Bldg. Free. 764-9537.

*22nd Annual Christmas Parade and Santa's Village: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. Saline pulls out the stops to welcome Old St. Nick

with a parade down Michigan Avenue ending in a tree lighting ceremony (7 p.m.). Other festivities include a pre-parade party (4:45-6:45 p.m., Saline Shopping Center) with Mrs. Claus, elves, entertainment, and gifts for kids. Also, performances by strolling musicians and carolers, an open house at the Saline Depot Museum, and a chance to view live reindeer and be photographed with Santa at Santa's Village (Chamber of Commerce, 141 E. Michigan). 4:30-10 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429-4494.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 2 Tuesday. Today: operas by Donizetti, Rossini, Puccini, Offenbach, and Tchaikovsky. 5 p.m.

2nd Annual Senior Ball and Holiday Celebration: HGS Home Care. All seniors and their friends invited to enjoy a buffet dinner with live music by a harpist, followed by dancing to 40s and 50s tunes spun by a DJ. Welcoming remarks by U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Rivers and U-M nursing school professor Elizabeth Allen. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Ypsilanti Marriott, 1275 S. Huron St. (off 1-94 at exit 183), Ypsilanti. Admission \$10 (age 55 & over), \$15 (senior couple), & \$25 (under age 55). Reservations requested. 973-1345.

*9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. December 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 24, 25, & 31. Ypsilanti's Riverside Park is transformed into a wintry fantasia by more than 50,000 lights on trees and in illuminated displays. Every year, more than 150,000 visitors walk or drive through the park. Also, opening weekend only (December 5-7), visits by Santa & Mrs. Claus, horsedrawn wagon and train rides, ice skating. On December 6 & 7, carolers sing outside various Depot Town stores. 6-10 p.m., Riverside Park, off Cross St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 483-4444.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★10th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea. December 5-7. This popular community celebration is extended through the weekend for the first time this year. Tonight's festivities include a tree-lighting ceremony (6:30 p.m., Pierce Park) featuring remarks by local officials and a skit by the local youth theater group Tech United. Santa is available to meet kiddies and pose for photos in two places at once (6-8:30 p.m., UAW Hall and Village Plaza). Local churches sponsor a living Nativity downtown, complete with live animals (7-8:30 p.m.), and First Congregational Church offers cookie decorating and hayrides (7-9 p.m.). Finally, the community carol sing (9 p.m., train depot). 6:30-10 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475-1145.

★"Celebrate with Music": U-M Alliance for AIDS Awareness. Dancing to music by the local acid jazz bands Explosion Cerebral and Transmission. Evening time and location to be announced. Free, 996-0526.

"Midnight Madness": Kerrytown Shops/Main Street Area Association/State Street Area Association. Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Kerrytown restaurants offer taste samples and other goodies. In the State Street area, the Santa Tubas and Our Lady's Madrigal Singers perform, and horse-drawn wagon rides (\$1) run between State and South University. Main Street kicks off its "Festive Friday" entertainment series (see below). 7-midnight, Kerrytown Shops and downtown between State and Main streets. Free admission.

★"Festive Friday Fun Night": Main Street Area Association. December 5, 12, & 19. Ann Arbor's Main Street area is filled tonight with strolling entertainers, and many stores are open late with special sales. 7-9 p.m., downtown area between Main and State streets. Free. 668-7112.

★Caroling Party: Kempf House Center for Local History. All invited to gather at this historic home and warm up your voices around the newly tuned 1877 Steinway piano before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols accompanied by the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider and cookies. 7 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994-4898.

★"A Small Meal in a Big Room in a Little City in the Winter." Opening reception for a week-long multimedia exhibit constructed by U-M art student Nicola Tasha Armster. Armster conducted a selfportrait "exchange" with friends and has arranged their works in an installation. Some of the pieces are displayed under Plexiglas table tops, where visitors are invited to sit and eat tonight. 7 p.m., 207 E. Washington. Free. 997–0851.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). December 5 & 19. All invited to join in simple dancing to chants and songs from various spiritual and religious traditions. Beginners welcome. 7-9 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. \$5 re-quested donation. For information, call Majid at (517) 381-0126 or Siddiq and Majida at 996-1332.

Ann Arbor Hills Child Development Center



We understand children and the parental role and we offer these important considerations:

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Ramelle Alexander-Administrator with 30 years of experience including 10 years as a university instructor

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- · At primary school, strong emphasis in the core subjects of English, Math and Science complemented by instruction in the Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Physical **Education and Computer Technology**



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SOS is collecting new, unwrapped gifts to be distributed to 2,000 local children, (infants up to teens) in-need this holiday season. Some gift suggestions:

- Art Supplies
- Board Games Card Games
- Chapter Books
- * Ethnic Dolls
- * Ethnic Focused Books
- * Gift Certificates
- * Puzzles
- * Restaurant Coupons
- * Sporting Goods
- * Trading Cards



Gift Prop Sites

Ann Arbor Commerce Bank Bank of Ann Arbor Espresso Royale Caffe Great Bagel Deli Media-One Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack Michigan Theater Real Seafood Schoolkids Records U-M Guild House U-M Kellogg Eye Center University Bank

White Rabbit Toys Whole Foods Market Y&S Sandwich Cafes Zap Zone Lazer Tag

Thank You For Caring!

SOS Community Services has answered the call of individuals and families in-need throughout Washtenaw County for over 25 years.

SOS Community Services * 101 South Huron * Ypsilanti, MI * 48197 * 313 - 485 - 8730

110 ANN ARBOR OBSERVER December 1997

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The 1997 Christmas Light Display features a spectacular show of more than 900,000 lights, plus indoor attractions, music, and more. It's all at Domino's Farms again this year, every night through Dec. 31.

*Game Night: Magic Carpet Books & Wonders. Parents and kids ages 3 & up invited to try out some of the store's large selection of board games. 7–8:30 p.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free, but reservations requested. 973–8757.

"Crying Laughter": University Activities Center/Crying Laughter Productions, Stand-up comedy by Mike Bonner and Horace Sanders, who both have been seen on TV comedy specials, and local talent Alena Green. 7-p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. \$5 at the door. 763–3202.

*"J. P. McCarthy: Just Don't Tell 'Em Where I Am": Little Professor Book Company. Mike Shiels, who produced J. P. McCarthy's show for the last 5 years of its 30-year run, signs copies of his new book about the late WJR radio host. 7 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

*"Introduction to Genealogy Resources": Ann Arbor District Library. Introduction to genealogical resources available at the library and on the World Wide Web. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 996–3180.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. Every Friday. All invited to play this tournament form of contract bridge in which identical hands are played by every table in order to compare individual scores. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Tap Room. \$2 (students, \$1), 996–1433.

"Harmonizin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers. A holiday choral concert to benefit Food Gatherers, the local food rescue and food bank program. Performers include the Sweet Adelines barbershop group County Connection Chorus, Sandor Slomovits of the folk duo Gemini, the A-Caffellas (a close-harmony men's vocal group drawn from the popular Measure for Measure chorus), the gay and lesbian Out Loud Chorus, the gospel choir Our Own Thing Chorale, the Plicton Horn Quartet, and others. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. \$12 (kids free with food donation). 761–2796.

20th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. December 5-7. A cast of some 175 Concordia students and staff and area children presents this traditional pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over the forces of sin and death. Originating in medieval England, the Boar's Head festival is a spectacle that combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, set to musical narration and full orchestra. It offers colorfully dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other characters from the medieval court, along with the traditional shepherds and wise men of Christmas lore. A highlight of the festival is the presentation of a roasted wild boar. The ferocious beast came to symbolize Satan, and its slaying represented the triumph of good over evil. A holiday dinner is served before tomorrow's performance. This immensely popular event sells out in advance year after

year, so get your tickets early. 7:30 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$0 (D+0 6 dinner & performance, \$30) in advance at the Kreft Center box office.

"An Italian Straw Hat": Young Actors Guild. December 5-7. This Annie Award-winning youth theater presents a cast of youngsters ages 14 and up in Eugene LaBiche's vintage comedy about a man delayed on the way to his wedding when his horse eats a woman's straw hat. This comedy of errors shares the vaudeville style made famous by Charlie Chaplin and the Marx Brothers. Note: YAG performs The Miracle Worker next weekend (see 11 Thursday). 7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. \$7 (children ages 11 & under, \$5) in advance or at the door. For reservations, call 930–1614.

"Stuart Little": Junior Theater (Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation)/Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 4 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

*Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book of lectures on Karmic Relationships, Vol. III. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. The group meets on occasional Fridays. 8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway (one block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes). Free. 662–6398.

★"An Evening of Sufi Chanting, Meditation, and Association": Haqqani Foundation. Every Friday. All invited to join a program of chanting and meditation based on the traditional Naqshbandi spiritual path as taught by Grandshaykh Muhammad Nazim al-Haqqani, a Sufi master who lives in Cyprus. 8–10 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 665–2670.

"Drum Circle." Every Friday. All invited to come and play percussion instruments (hand percussion only; no snare drums or cymbals) and learn rhythms. 8–10 p.m., Gallup Park meeting room (next to the canoe livery), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). \$2 donation.

First Friday Square and Contra Dance. Dancing to live music by Licketysplit, with local callers John Freeman and John Walker. All dances taught; beginners and older children welcome. No partner necessary. 8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$6 (children, \$3) at the door. 665–8405.

Spinning Stars Square Dance Club. With caller Glen Geer. All experienced dancers invited. Refreshments. 8–10:30 p.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off Dixboro Rd. north of Plymouth), Dixboro. \$6 per couple. 662–3405.

*Dan Minock: Shaman Drum Bookshop. See review, p. 109. This Washtenaw Community College English teacher reads from Thistle Journal, his recently published collection of essays about building a house with his father and living in it with his wife. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.

★ Sara Wheeler: Six-String Coffee House. Acoustic folk-rock by this Boston-based singer-songwriter, a Detroit-area native who moved East to attend the Berklee School of Music. The show begins with an open mike (sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m.). 8–10 p.m., Michigan League Underground. Free. 763–4652.

Philip Dikeman: Kerrytown Concert House. This Detroit Symphony Orchestra assistant principal flutist is joined by distinguished local pianist Michele Cooker for a program that includes works by Faure, Bach, and Sigfrid Karg-Elert. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$8 & \$12 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Annual Study Break Concert: The Friars. This popular a cappella octet drawn from the U-M Men's Glee Club performs close-harmony arrangements of everything from oldies to contemporary pop, punctuated by goofy antics and choreography. With special guests 58 Greene, a U-M student a cappella group. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$7 in advance by calling 763–TKTS or 668–8480.

"Come to the Cabaret": Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. James Stephens directs this 50-voice chorus in an informal concert. The program ranges from favorites like "Home on the Range" and "River of No Return" to some Christmas tunes. Also, performances by several quartets, including Fire Power (a Lansing quartet that was a 1995 & 1996 SPEBSQSA international quarterfinalist), Detroit Sound Company (the 1997 Pioneer District champian), and four quartets from the local Harmonizers chapter: Reckless Abandon, Quad-du-Jour," Chordiology, and Mutual Accord. Emcee

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- The Divorced Parents Workshop: for parents coping with divorce
- Social Skills Groups: for children and teens
- * Teens: Fitting in/Stepping Out: therapy group for teens
- * Finding Your Own Voice: therapy group for teenage girls

UCCF is a University of Michigan agency offering affordable mental health services for children and families in the community. University affiliation not required for service.

For information call: (313) 764-9466





Descant & Concert Choirs
Saturday, December 13, 1997
Concordia College Chapel
performance Time: 7:30pm

Chamber Choin:
Sunday, December 14, 1997
U or M Museum or Art
perrormance Time: 1:00pm

Tickets at the door Adults \$7 Students/Seniors \$4 Families \$10





with each paid admissiol Limit 4 • Offer valid thru 1-1-98.

tenor in the Four-Tune Tellers, a popular quartet that performed from the 40s through the 80s. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

*Opera Workshop: EMU Music Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m "Princess Ida": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Soci-

is Sam Cushman, a Jackson resident who sang

EVENTS continued

ety. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m. "Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Guys and Dolls": EMU Theater Department. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"No Exit": Peridot Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8

"Henry V": U-M Theater Department. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m

The Incredible Boris: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m

Friday Dance Jam: People Dancing Studio. December 5 & 19. Dancing to an eclectic mix of taped music, including worldbeat, funk, rap, R&B, soul, alternative rock 'n' roll, new folk, and pop. Also, occasional live drumming. An alternative to the bar scene for people who love to dance. All are invited to bring cassette tapes and acoustic musical instruments. Smoke-free, no alcohol. Dance barefoot or bring dancing shoes. Come with or without a dance partner; children welcome. 10 p.m., People Dancing Studio, 111 Third St. (west entrance between Huron and Washington). \$3. Wheelchair-accessible. 459-8136, 996-2405.

Jackopierce: Prism Productions. Pop-rock originals by this very popular quartet from Dallas, Texas, fronted by Jack O'Neill and Cary Pierce, a singersongwriter duo known for their affecting blend of buoyantly upbeat tunes and darkly obsessive and despairing lyrics. Tonight's performance—the penultimate show on the band's "farewell tour"—features an acoustic set by O'Neill and Pierce and a set with the full band. 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Schoolkids', the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; \$12 at the door. To charge by phone, call (810) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.

FILMS

CCS. "The Silent Mountain" (Wang Tong, 1994). Absorbing drama about the experiences of two gold miners during the Japanese occupation of Taiwan in 1927. Mandarin, subtitles. FREE. Children under 12 not admitted. AH-A, 8 p.m. CJS. "Male Idols of the Japanese Cinema." Double feature stars Ken Ogata in two violent, gripping dramas: "Vengeance is Mine" (Shohei Imamura, 1979), about a pathological rapist-murderer trying to elude an international dragnet; and "Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters" (Paul Schrader, 1985), the story of the controversial 20th-century writer and traditionalist who orchestrated his own ceremonial death. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. Nat. Sci., 7 & 9:20 p.m.

6 SATURDAY

★"Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Rob French leads an auto trek around town to look for gulls. In the past 2 years, nine species of gulls have been spotted in Ann Arbor. 8 a. at Pittsfield School to carpool, 2543 Pittsfield Blvd.

Holiday Open House: Nielsen's Flowers. December 6 & 7. Sale of numerous poinsettias and other plants, garlands and wreaths, decorated miniature trees, jewelry and gifts, Christopher Radko orna-ments, and Winnie-the-Pooh collectibles. Refreshments and door prizes. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Nielsen's, 1021 Maiden Lane. Free admission. 994-6112.

*"Kids Connect!": Ann Arbor District Library. AADL staff explain the basics of the Internet, World Wide Web, and the Netscape browser. Participants also explore the library's Youth Page. Open to all kids grades 6–8. 9 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Preregistration required. 327–4550.

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. This extremely popular sale features used Christmas decorations (artificial Christmas trees, tested sets of tree lights, candles, etc.), all sorts of children's games and toys, skis, skates, bicycles, sleds, books, hardware, appliances, boots, coats, and lots of good quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. 9 a.m.-4

p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center. W. Washington at E. Pree aumission. 665-0450.

28th Annual Ski Swap: U M Alpino Sale of used cross-country and downhill skis and ski equipment, along with some inventory from local ski shops. Also, snowboards, in-line skates, ice skates, and other winter sports gear. Sellers must bring in items for sale on December 5, 4-10 p.m. The U-M Alpine Ski team takes a commission on all sales. 9 m.-5 p.m., U-M Coliseum, Hill at S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 332-0984, 764-6708.

Saline Community Education Craft Show. More than 125 crafters from throughout the Midwest offer handmade baskets, jewelry, tole painting, folk arts, quilting, stained glass, flowers, ceramics, clothing, toys, woodwork, cradles, furniture and more at af-fordable prices. Also, Christmas greens, baked goods, and food concessions, and Saline High School souvenirs. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7625 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd., Saline. Admission \$2. Wheelchair-accessible; no strollers allowed, 429-5922

Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Festival: Rudolf Steiner School. Sale of handmade ornaments, wreaths, beeswax candles, dolls, and wooden toys made by school parents according to Rudolf Steiner's educational principles. Also, a bookstore with works by Steiner; a children's activity corner where kids can make gifts to take home; and kidsonly gift room, with gifts priced for children's budgets; and a teen room with faculty and students from the new Steiner high school. Caroling, hot cider, tea room, lunch, and entertainment, including a children's theater, performance cafe, and a silent auction. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995-4141.

"Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. December 6, 13, & 14. A chance—probably your only chance-to have your pet's photo taken with Santa Claus. Dogs must be leashed, and other pets must be transported in a carrier; no dogs allowed on December 14. Proceeds to benefit the Humane Society. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Riverside Lawn, Garden, & Pet Supply, 5 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. \$8 for one 3 1/4" x 4 1/4" matted photo or two wallet-sized photos, \$15 for all three photos. Appointments required. 662-5585, ext. 103.

"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Saturday & Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. 10 a.m. (Saturdays only) & 1 p.m. (both days), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-0044.

*Beanie Baby Show and Sale: Arborland Mall. One-day show and sale of those hard-to-find toy critters that are on everybody's Christmas list this year. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Arborland Mall. Free admission. 971-1825.

★"Can Today's 'Prosperity' Benefit More of Us?": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Panel discussion with U-M sociology professor Howard Kimeldorf and two representatives from the U-M Labor Studies Center, Alex Meiklejohn and Hy Kornbluh. Gray Panthers is an intergenerational group dedicated to improving life for people of all ges. Refreshments. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Ann Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 663-6248.

*"Food for Thought: Nutrition for Mind, Body, and Spirit": ZORAS African-American Support Group. A variety of workshops on healthy eating for the holidays and every day, a history of the African-American diet, and more. Also, samples of healthy foods. 10 a.m.-noon, Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662-3128, 665-2154.

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. December 6 & 7. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Offers a diverse range of functional and decorative ceramics by some 40 local artists, in high-fired stoneware, porcelain, and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast-arrive early for the best selection. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 201 Hill St. Free admission. 663-4970.

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. For holiday gift shoppers, wide selection of used books that look new cluding a Wodehouse Bestiary, a cookbook entitled Dinosaur Cakes, the 1928 book Folklore of the Teeth, a 16-volume Ars Islamica, an 18-volume Ars Hispanica, and lots more. A separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit of 3 children's books per family) includes everything from Guppies in Tuxedos and Jan Pienowski's pop-up book Dinner Time to old favorites like Why the Grinch Stole Christmas and Calvin & Hobbes and Garfield comic books. Also, Christmas records. Pro-

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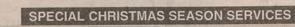
Tradition brings families together Love keeps together.



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St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church 420 W. Liberty St. 665-9117

Sunday Services: 8:00 am and 10:45 am



Wednesday Advent (12/3, 12/10, 12/17) 7:00 pm **Christmas Eve**

5:30 pm Family Service 7:30 pm Choral Service 11:00 pm Candlelight Service 10:00 pm Christmas Day 7:30 pm

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New Year's Eve

a.m.-4 p. 343 S. Fi Free adm *"Deck Museum enger hu tion and v leo-dough nosaur p Farrand o nosaurs" Shall and Origami p.m.). Al North Un Psychic 1 a.m.-9 p.

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ceeds to support library projects. Note: The Book Shop is also open on December 7, 13, & 14. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 994–2333.

*"Deck the Halls with Dinosaurs!": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day. Highlights include a scavenger hunt through the museum's dinosaur collection and the day activities including more tion and various hands-on activities, including making your own "Triassic T-shirt," playing with "Paleo-dough," and creating a "Cretaceous Creature" di-nosaur puppet. Exhibit Museum director William Parrand discusses "The Geologic Time of the Dinosaurs" (11 a.m.), and local origami wizard Don Shall and other members of the Ann Arbor Society 4 Origami show how to make origami dinosaurs (1-3 p.m.). Also, planetarium shows (see 10:30 a.m. listing below). 10 a.m.-4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. Free. 764-0478.

Psychic Fair: Arborland Mall. See 4 Thursday. 10

*15th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 5 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

*"Arb Walk": Grex. Every Saturday. All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk from Gallup Park through the U-M Arboretum. 10:15 a.m. Meet in Gallup Park parking lot, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 930-6564.

"Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies and Mesmerizing Science"/"The Mars Show": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday & Sunday. "Adventures in Autumn" (10:30 & 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 & 2:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual exploration. ration of the astronomy and mythology of the stars and planets currently visible in the sky. "The Mars Show" (12:30 & 3:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual show, narrated by Star Trek: The Next Generation star Patrick Stewart, about the mythology and astronomy of Mars, including the recent discoveries from the Pathfinder spacecraft. *Note:* "Adventures in Autumn" is also shown on December 22, 23, 26, 29, & 30 (see 22 Monday listing). 10:30 & 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. (Saturdays only) and 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m. (both days), U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. \$3 (seniors & children 12 & under, \$2.50). "The Mars Show" is not recommended for kids age 6 & under. 764-0478.

*"Atoms in a New Light": U-M Physics Department "Saturday Morning Physics." December 6 & 13. Last two in a series of three multimedia talks by U-M physics professor John Yukich on the fundamentals of atomic physics, from how atoms are studied via their interaction with light to such promising areas of research as atom trapping and wave-func tion engineering. Part of a semester-long series of talks on cutting-edge research by U-M physicists aimed at general audiences. 10:30-11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison Bldg., 501 East University. Free. 764-4437.

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at Hudson Mills Metropark's 18-hole disc golf course. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: \$3 per vehicle.) 996-0212, 434-1615.

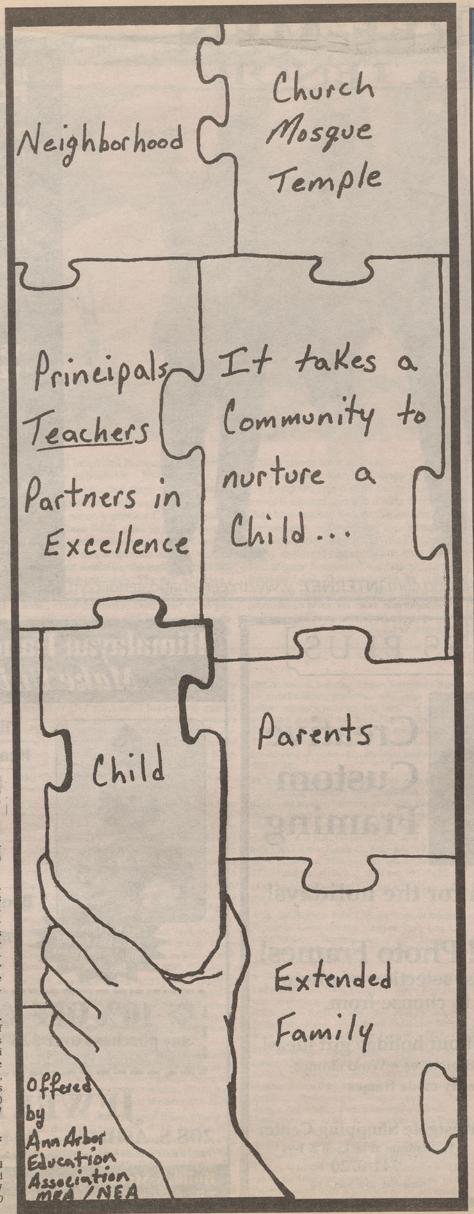
*"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company, Every Saturday. Storytellers Charles Lewis and Pam Crisovan, aka "Mama Moon," alternate weekly in presenting tales, crafts, and other activities for kids ages 4-10. Today, local children's author Mary Lou Rigg joins Lewis to read from her Christmas story, A Cat Tops a Tree. Also, on December 13, members of Ann Arbor Ballet Theater Perform somes from The Nuterracker and Lyle the perform scenes from The Nutcracker and Lyle the Crocodile visits at noon. 11 a.m.-noon, Little Pro-

fessor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110. *"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music. Every Saturday (except December 27). Borders staff and guests read stories and lead activities for kids ages 4-10. Today: children's author Jerry Piasecki and composer Wendy Rollin share an interactive musical story from the Chenille Sisters' new release, The Adventures of Na Uh and Nu Huh. Also this month: a visit from the Wild Thing (December 13) and storyteller Annette Bowman (December 20). 11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.

*Wee Ones Storytimes: Magic Carpet Books & Wonders, See 4 Thursday, 11 a.m.

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Monthly Meeting: Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser. Potluck and social gathering for gays and lesbians age 50 and older. Bring a dish to pass. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic, 1010 Wall St. \$2.764-2556.





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cajun music

Beausoleil Revivalism at its best

It began in the 1970s with a rock band called Coteau, once dubbed "the Cajun Grateful Dead." This cosmic American music inspired fiddler Michael Doucet to return to his roots. He studied at the feet of legends like Nathan Abshire and Joseph Carrière, threw himself wholeheartedly into the renaissance of Louisiana French culture which blossomed in that decade of doing your own thing, and formed Beausoleil, an acoustic ensemble dedicated to the preservation of traditional Cajun music.

From the start, the group set people to dancing, and they concertized everywhere from New Orleans to Paris.

Trouble was, when you really get into it, traditional Cajun music turns out to be a fertile, dynamic mixture rather than a holy canon of works. It blends age-old Acadian scales, subtly inflected country dance steps, American fiddle music, traditional French song, and more. The Germans brought the accordion to New Orleans (and to San Antonio) toward the end of the nineteenth century. And there were decades of mutual influence between Cajun music and its black, blues-oriented cousin, zydeco.

So Doucet, as he delved deeper into Cajun music's past, fittingly decided to carry it forward. Beausoleil turned to electric instruments on its 1986 LP Bayou Boogie, which strongly emphasized zydeco and New Orleans rhythm and blues, translated into French. (Many of the group's songs are in Acadian French, but the language as learned in the classroom or even Paris won't get you very far with them.) A whole new set of African-American rhythms appeared in counterpoint to Doucet's fiddle.



I heard Beausoleil in concert at Vanderbilt University in Nashville a few years later, just as they had absorbed these new influences and formed the distinctive style that has made them the nation's premier Cajun ensemble, the traditional fiddle tunes in perfect balance with the irresistible danceability of zydeco rhythms. In this auditorium setting, with no dance floor available, the audience twitched more or less constantly. The Ark will have a dance floor available when Beausoleil performs there Saturday, December 6, so you can expect an evening of dancing with an intensity that usually happens only when

African groups come to town.

Beausoleil's sound continues to evolve. The group has grown in its ability to spin out a simple musical unit into a long dance jam. They have reached back further into the Francophone past, while refining their mastery of complex zydeco rhythms. And Doucet recently re-formed Coteau, which released the disc Highly Seasoned Cajun Music on the Rounder label. This band, with its swamprock and rhythm-and-blues influences, promises to bring yet more new ingredients to Beausoleil's masterful musical mix.

-James M. Manheim

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House "Croissant Concert." A popular holiday tradition featuring this brass quintet made up of area professionals, who perform seasonal music, classics, and pop tunes, concluding with a sing-along to Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus. Croissants, coffee, and juice served. 11 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$9 & \$12. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.

Craft Show: Homespun Creations. See 5 Friday. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hidden Lake Gardens Hike: Sierra Club. All invited to join a trek through the beautiful MSU botanical gardens near Tecumseh, followed by a visit to the conservatory and gift shop. Noon, meet at Ann Arbor City Hall to carpool. Nominal entrance fee. 429-0671.

*6th Annual "Art Day": Washtenaw Council for the Arts, December 6 & 7. A celebration of Washtenaw County's rich and varied visual arts community. Many galleries in Ann Arbor, Dexter, and Ypsilanti host special exhibits and demonstrations this weekend, and a number of private studios are open to the public. At Washtenaw Community College today, an array of artisans' booths, a children's art exhibit, and kids' activities throughout the day. Also, a fantasy costume trunk is available at Generations for kids to play dress-up. Special events include the annual Potters Guild sale (see listing above), and the Children's Holiday Parade and the Kerrytown Artisan Market on Sunday. Noon-5 p.m., various locations. Free admission. Maps available at downtown galleries, or by calling 484-4882 or 995-7281. Web: www.annarbor.org/

"Dexter's Victorian Christmas": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. December 6 & 13. The Dexter of days gone by is resurrected as locals dressed in Victorian costume stroll the streets selling wares, a town crier calls out the latest news, and more. Carolers and strolling musicians perform throughout the day, and visitors can meet Father Christmas and go for rides in a horse-drawn sleigh. Other special events: Young People's Theater performs The Gift of the Magi (2, 5, & 6 p.m.) and the

Twin Masks Theater Company performs *Something New For Santa* (1, 2:30, & 4 p.m.). Also, a strolling **puppeteer** (3–4 p.m.) and a **barbershop quartet** (5–6 p.m.). Also in Dexter today, **holiday bazaars** are hosted by the Girl Scouts (9 a.m.–3 p.m., St. Andrew's Church, 7610 Ann Arbor St.), the Historical Society (9 a.m.–4 p.m., Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness St.), and the Senior Center (9 a.m.–4 p.m., Senior Center, 7713 Ann Arbor St.). *Noon–7 p.m.*, *downtown Dexter. Free admission. 426–0887*.

Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum. December 6 & 7. This mid-19th-century pioneer homestead is decked out with Victorian-style greenery and decorations and a feather Christmas tree. Attractions include music played on an authentic melodeon, cooking demonstrations on an antique wood stove, hot cider and cookies, and a chance to explore the farm grounds and barn. Also, sale of old-fashioned gifts such as handmade toys and sleigh bells. Dress for the weather. Noon-5 p.m., Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Jackson. (Take 1-94 west to exit 153 and follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) Admission \$1 (students & children, free). 426-4980, (517) 596-2254.

★10th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea. See 5 Friday. Today's special events include walking tours of the historic district (noon-3 p.m., beginning at First Congregational Church), and a professional and amateur bakers' gingerbread house contest. Noon-9 p.m.

Tuba Euphonium: U-Club. Tuba and euphonium players from around the country converge for an entertaining concert of works arranged for the orchestra's two largest brass instruments. 12:30 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. \$3 at the door. 763–3202.

*Holiday Open House: Kempf House Center for Local History. December 6, 7, 13, & 14. Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, which is decked out for the holidays in Victorian style. 1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994–4898.

Julie Austin and David Stearns: Washtenaw Community College Children's Center. Children's concert featuring former SongSister Austin, an award-winning performer who sings and plays guitar, autoharp, recorder, jaw harp, and nose flute; and bass guitarist and bass fiddle player David Stearns. I p.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$3 (children 2 & older, \$2; children under 2, free).

"Lights, Camera, Action!": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Monthly Demonstration. Every Saturday and Sunday. Museum staff offer fun and educational demos on the science of motion pictures. Includes a chance for visitors to make their own movie. 1 & 3 p.m. (Saturdays), 2 & 4 p.m. (Sundays), Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron St. at Fifth Ave. Museum admission: \$4 (adults), \$2.50 (students, seniors, & children), 995-5439.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. UNLV. 1 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$12 & \$15.764-0247.

*"A Cat Tops a Tree": Magic Carpet Books & Wonders. Local children's author Mary Lou Rigg reads from her Christmas story. 2 p.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free; reservations requested. 973–8757.

★"Decorating a Tree for the Birds": Wild Birds Unlimited. Wild Birds Unlimited owner Kurt Hagemeister discusses how to decorate yard trees with edible foods for birds and other wild animals. Refreshments. 2 p.m., Wild Birds Unlimited, 2204 S. Main at Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 665–7427.

"La Boutique Fantasque": Ypsilanti Area Dancers/Salvation Army Advisory Board. December 6 & 7. This local company of children and adult dancers directed by Marjorie Randazzo and Sara Randazzo-Rodriguez performs its popular ballet about a 19th-century French toy shop where the toys magically come to life. Also, soloists Roya Panahi and Gregory George are featured in two excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" ballet. Also, Randazzo-Rodriguez is joined by Sherry Eyster of New York's American Tap Dance Orchestra for a "Tribute to an American Dance Form," a revue of tap dance styles from its beginnings to the present day, with live jazz accompaniment by the stellar local trio

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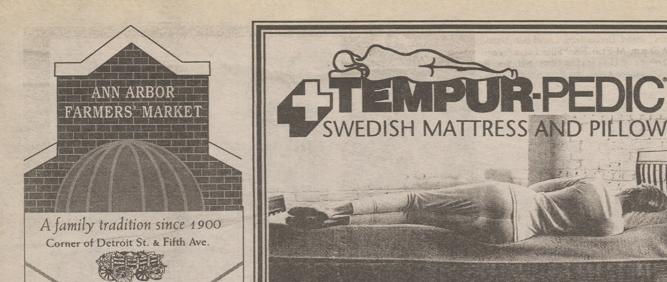
Here's our December Schedule of Events:

MWF - Pre-school, 10am-11:30am
Tues. & Thurs. - Playgroup, 10am-11am
Friday - Parents Night Out, at 7pm
Popcorn, games, movie
Saturday - Kids Club, 10am-2pm

Parents don't latchkey your kids or miss work during the holidays. We offer special rates for working parents during the holidays.

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of pianist Rick Roe, bassist Paul Keller, and percussionist Pat Sorise, 3 p.m., Ypsilanti High Sch 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$8 (children 12 & under, \$4) in advance at Dancers Boutique (Saline), Norton-Durant Flowers and the Salvation Army (Ypsilanti), and First Position (Ann Arbor); and at the door. One free adult ticket with groups of 10 or more children. 662-7767, 973-1396, 668-8353.

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*"Myth USA": Media Union Gallery. Opening reception for this U-M student exhibit of color photos exploring America's myths, heroes, idols, and icons. 4-6 p.m., Media Union Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd. at Murfin, North Campus. Free. 930-0380, 763-3534.

"A Holiday Happening": St, Francis of Assisi Altar Society. December 6 & 7. Raffle of a handmade quilt and other quilted items made by members of the Altar Society. Also, sale of greenery, greeting cards, poinsettias, and baked goods. 4:30-6:30 p.m., St. Francis Parish Activities Center (adjacent to the church), 2250 E. Stadium. Free admission.

*"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. Monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animat ed films and TV cartoons. Japanese, subtitles. U-M campus admission policy: No one under 18 admitted without an adult. 5-11 p.m., Modern Languages Bldg. Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington at Thayer. Free. For more information, E-mail animania @umich.edu, or visit the Web site at www.umich.

Family Chess Club: Adventures in Chess. Every Saturday. Chess players of all ages and levels ability invited. Includes a weekly ladder tournament. Chess sets provided. 5-10 p.m., Adventures in Chess, 220 S. Main (new location below Main Street News). \$3 per week, or \$49 annual membership.

*Interfaith Worship Service: Guild House Campus Ministry. Every Saturday (except December 27). The service begins with a Native American smudging, ends with a Sufi blessing, and includes a talk by Guild House minister Diane Christopherson on "Relational Metaphors for God." 5:30-6:30 p.m., 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662-5189.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10

"Joie de Vivre": 22nd Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. The sights and sounds of Paris reign at this year's festivities, which feature lavish decorations in burgundy and blue. Includes cocktails and a gourmet dinner prepared by awardwinning San Francisco chefs Gary Danko and Lance Velasquez, followed by ballroom dancing to The People's Choice orchestra. This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. This year's proceeds benefit the hospital's breast care services. Note: All ball decorations, including Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias, and table linens, are for sale (call for information). 6:30 p.m.-1 a.m., Michigan League. \$1,000 per couple. For reservations, call 712-3192.

★"Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad": U-M Women's & Men's Gymnastics. The U-M gymnastics teams prepare for the 1997–1998 NCAA season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

Duplicate Bridge: Burns Park Senior Center. Every Saturday. All invited to play this tournament form of contract bridge in which identical hands are played by every table in order to compare individual scores. 7-10 p.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$3 per pair. 668-2430, 975-9033.

"Christmas at Our Place": Varsity Blues and Company. December 6 & 7. This Saline-area youth company performs a musical revue of seasonal songs, dances, and original skits. Includes a visit from Santa and guest appearance by the Huron High School barbershop chorus Sha-Bop Shop. 7:30 p.m., Saline High School Auditorium, 7190 Maple Rd., Saline. Tickets \$5 at the door. 429-2103.

Beausoleil: The Ark. See review, p. 115. Led by fiddler Michael Doucet, Beausoleil is one of the most influential bands in the revival of interest in the Cajun music of French Louisiana. Their repertoire includes everything from Cajun, Creole, and medieval French music to zydeco, New Orleans jazz, island rhythms, and Southern boogie. A big favorite with local audiences. Dance floor available. 7:30 & 10 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

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An Italian Straw Hat": Young Actors Guild. See 5 Friday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

"Stuart Little": Junior Theater (Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation)/Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 4 Thursday. 3:30 & 7:30 p.m.

20th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College, See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council Top Drawer Stringband, with caller Bob Stein. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Also, all string band musicians invited to bring their instruments (and Ruffwater fake books) to a free jam session (4–6 p.m.). 8–11:30 p.m., Pitts-field Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$6. 769–1052.

*John Briley: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This U-M film & video studies visiting professor reads from First Stone, his recently published thriller set in the Middle East. Briley, who won an Oscar for his screenplay for *Gandhi*, gives a talk at the Ann Arbor District Library on December 4 (see listing). 8 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

*1997 Jewish Book Fair: Jewish Community Center. December 6 & 7. Display and sale (at retail Prices) of more than 2,000 new books by Jewish authors, ranging from cookbooks, expensive gift books, children's books, and reference books books, children's books, and reference books to books by local authors and new titles hot off the presses. (Publishers plan their releases for November, which is Jewish Book Month.) The fair opens following tonight's talk by Martin Lee, an award-winning journalist who discusses *The Beast Reawakens*, his recently published exploration of the contemporary resurgence of neo-Nazism and fascism. (Lee also discusses his work at Borders on December 8; see listing). 8–10:30 p.m., Jewish Community ber 8; see listing). 8–10:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.

U-M Arts Chorale: U-Club. Holiday concert by this U-M student chorus. 8 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. Ticket prices to be announced. 763–3202.

*Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Rob Reynolds directs this U-M student ensemble in a program of new music that includes U-M alum Glenn Palmer's Chamber Concerto, Hans Abrahamsen's "Mill Songs," and Dan Welcher's "White Mares of the Moon." 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763-4726.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. December 6 & 7. This annual performance of Handel's well-loved religious oratorio has been an Ann Arbor tradition since 1879. Thomas Sheets directs the 250 minutes of the 250 minutes o the 250-voice UMS Choral Union and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The soloists, all established professionals with national or internaall established professionals with national or international reputations, include soprano Nicole Heaston, countertenor David Daniels, tenor John Aler, and bass Nathan Berg. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$18 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

"Princess Ida": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society, See 4 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Guys and Dolls": EMU Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"No Exit": Peridot Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8

"Henry V": U-M Theater Department. See 4 Thursday, 8 p.m.

The Incredible Boris: Mainstreet Comedy Show-case, See 4 Thursday, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

*"Flaming Menorah Party": Hillel. The public is welcome at this pre-Hanukkah party and dance sponsored by the local Jewish lesbian, gay, and biexual collective. 9 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill St. Free.

The Gepetto Files: The Gypsy Cafe. All-new punk marionette show by this local ensemble. Puppeteers Chris Sheets, Ted Talvitie, and Chris Talvitie specializa cialize in off-the-wall explorations of American culous, provocative, sophomoric, and haunting. The troupe's Halloween show was a huge hit. 9:30 p.m.-midnight, The Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. 34 at the door only. 994-3940.

FILMS

CG. "David Copperfield" (George Cukor, 1935). Fine adaptation of Charles Dickens's novel. W. C. Fields, Lionel Barrymore, Basil Rathbone. AH-A, 7 p.m. "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). "Tis the season once again for this classic about a Tis the season once again for this classic about a

man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. AH-A, 9:20 p.m. M-FLICKS. "Film Farm." Tentative. Showing of U-M student films. Nat. Sci., 8 p.m. U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. "Animania." See Events listing above. FREE. MLB 3; 5–11 p.m. MTF. "Gattaca" (Andrew M. Niccol, 1997). December 6, 7, & 9. Thriller at furnistic society, where people's genetics determine their december that the second of the seco society where people's genetics determine their des-tiny. Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman. Mich., 4:45 & 9:45 p.m. "L.A. Confidential" (Curtis Hanson, 1997). December 6 & 8. Film noir about 3 cops tracking down corruption in 1950s L.A. Mich., 7

7 SUNDAY

"A Holiday Happening": St. Francis of Assisi Altar Society. See 6 Saturday. 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

*"Sunday Bank Run": Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Sunday. All invited to join AATC members for all or part of a 14-mile training run along roads ringing the city. 9 a.m., Great Lakes Bank parking lot, 2400 S. Huron Pkwy. at Platt Rd. Free. For information, call Dan Gamble at 995–5505.

*1997 Jewish Book Fair: Jewish Community Center. See 6 Saturday. Today's special events: Miriam Winter discusses her book, Trains: A Memoir of a Hidden Childhood During and After World War II (10 a.m.), David Gleicher discusses his book, Louis Brandeis Slept Here: A Slightly Cynical History of American Jews (1 p.m.), and Allen Bodner discusses his book, When Boxing Was a Jewish Sport (3 p.m.). Children's programming includes storytelling for preschoolers (1-2 p.m.) and for older kids (2-3 p.m.), and craft activities for preschoolers (1-3 p.m.)p.m.). 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

*Zen Meditation: Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. Every Sunday. Meditators from all traditions are welcome to join in meditation to develop awareness and concentration. In the morning, two 25-minute meditation periods with a break between, followed by a short talk by Zen Buddhist Temple resident priest Sukha Murray. In the evening, meditation and chanting, followed by a talk and a question period. 9:30–11 a.m. & 5–6:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free; donations accepted. 761–6520.

★"Independence Woods": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC's entertaining and informative naturalist Matt Heumann leads a hike through the woods at Inde-pendence Lake, pointing out interesting sights along the way. (The park is closed for the season and opens this morning only for this walk.) 10 a.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Webster Twp. Free. 971–6337.

*Adult Study Group: Unity Church of Ann Arbor. Every Sunday. All invited to join an informal discussion of Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla's The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery. 10 a.m., Unity Church of Ann Arbor, 4599 Carpenter Rd. (just south of the I-94 overpass). Free. 434-8545.

Hanukkah Bazaar: Beth Israel Congregation. Traditional and unusual Judaica and other crafts and gifts. Also, a children's corner with gifts priced for small people's budgets. Refreshments and lunch featuring Beth Israel's "now-famous" latkes (potato pancakes). 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation Social Hall, 2000 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 665-9897.

*"A Visit to China": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talk by retired ERIM engineer Mildred Denecke. 10 a.m., Burns Park Community Center, 320 Baldwin. Free. 971-8638.

Annual Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. See 6 Saturday. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

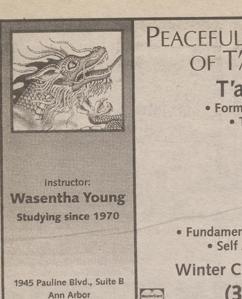
*First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday. A weekly program for single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: Dave Kherbiel leads a discussion of "The Message of the Three Wise Men." Also this month: Ron Smeenge offers a dramatic presentation on "The Other Wise Man" (December 14), William Bullard discusses "Israel: Where It All Began" (December 21), and a showing of "Truce in the Forest," a video based on a true WWII story about coldiers who lay downs their soldiers who lay down their arms on Christmas Eve (December 28). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Cafe Marie (1759 Plymouth Rd.) and every Wednesday at 7 p.m. for volleyball on a sand court on the church grounds. All singles invited. 10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 741-8345.

*Chinese Meditation: Ann Arbor Chapter of the International Yan Xin Qigong Association. Every Sunday. All invited to discuss and practice this Chinese form of meditation. 10:30 a.m.-noon, 1014 Herbert Dow Bldg., 2300 Hayward, North Campus.



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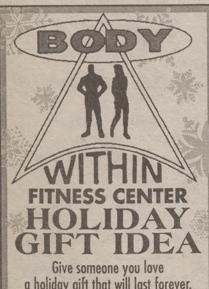
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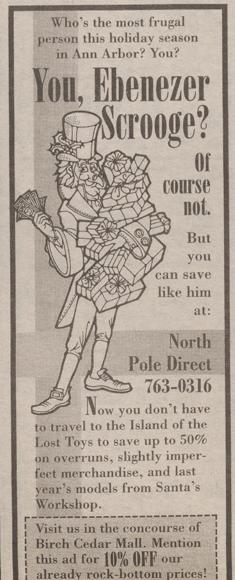
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EVENTS continued

Free, 764-2182

Holiday Open House: Nielsen's Flowers. See 6 Saturday. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

★Sunday Discussion: Knox Singles Ministries. Every Sunday. All single adults invited to join a discussion of contemporary Christian topics to be an nounced. 11 a.m., Tappan Middle School, 2251 E. Stadium. Free. 971–KNOX.

*Open House: The Distinctive Touch. A chance to view the collection of fine fossils, crystals, shells, insect specimens, and more at this gallery, normally open by appointment only. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. from Huron River Dr.). Free. 994–3048.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. Every Sunday through December 21. A wide variety of fine arts and crafts by local artisans. Musicians, storytellers, or other entertainers are usually on hand to add to the festivities. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. 668-2027.

*15th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, See 5 Friday. Also, today: a Christmas concert (3-4 p.m.) with performances by the First Presbyterian Handbell Choir (under Carol Muehlig), Celtic harpist Beverly Black, flutist Paula Fader-Garff, vocalist Ruth Christensen, and the vocal duo of Emily Wood and Rebecca Nye. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

"Holiday Homes of Historic Ypsilanti." Self-guided tour of nine historic homes, all decked out for the holidays inside and out. Includes the Parish House Inn as well as examples of Victorian, Prairie style, Italianate, and colonial revival architecture. Also, a candlelit buffet dinner is available tonight at the historic Breakey Manor on Huron St. (518; for reserva-tions, call 483–2300). Proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels and the Humane Society. *Noon–5 p.m.*, *vari*ous Ypsilanti locations. Tickets \$12 in advance at many Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor stores, and day of tour at Remington's by Design in Depot Town, 19 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. 485-2164.

Orienteering Meet: Southeastern Michigan Orienteering Club. All are invited to try their hand at orienteering, or "adventure running." Armed with a detailed map and compass, participants use their map-reading skills to find several checkpoints. The first person to reach all the checkpoints and make it back to the beginning wins. Meets include courses of various lengths and difficulty to accommodate all skill levels. (Beginning instruction is available at all SMOC meets.) There is a 3-hour time limit for all courses. Noon, Bird Hills, on Down-Up Circle off Newport from Maple Rd. \$1-\$3 for maps. For infor mation, call Mary Joscelyn at 995-1842 or Jude Halloran at 994-5772.

Monthly Meeting: YANKS. All invited to join this group for brunch and socializing. The acronym stands for Young Anglicans: No Kids, and the group consists mostly of couples in their 20s and 30s, but there is no age requirement, and young parents who desire an afternoon of adult company are welcome. Visitors are also welcome to meet for worship be-fore brunch (10:15 a.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard). Noon, location to be announced. Pay for your own meal. For information or reservations, call Colleen at 930–9006 or the church at 662-2449

*"First Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting": Tios Restaurant. Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. Noon-4 p.m., Tios Restaurant, 333 E. Huron. Free.

Psychic Fair: Arborland Mall. See 4 Thursday.

★6th Annual "Art Day": Washtenaw Council for the Arts. See 6 Saturday. Noon-5 p.m.

Victorian Christmas Open House: Waterloo Area Farm Museum, See 6 Saturday, Noon-5 p.m.

*9th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Main Street Area Association. All kids are invited to join a downtown street parade featuring assorted costumed animal characters, city fire engines, AATA and public school buses, and area high school marching bands. The parade is led by Mayor Sheldon and Santa Claus (who rides in a reindeer-drawn sleigh). Participating children are encouraged to wear costumes, too, and all kids are given kazoos for a kiddie kazoo band. Parents are welcome to bring kids in strollers or accompany those who need escorts, and nursery schools and Scout and Brownie troops can march together with an identifying ban-ner. The parade route runs from the Federal Building down Liberty to Fourth Ave. to Washington to Main to the Detroit Edison parking lot at William, where a

petting farm is set up. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at the Real Seafood Company. Noon (assemble), 12:30 p.m. (parade), Federal Bldg., E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

*Senior Sunday Fun Bunch: Ann Arbor Public Schools Senior Adult Program. Every Sunday. All seniors age 55 and older are invited for an afternoon of socializing. Activities include a potluck (1-1:30 p.m.) and bridge and euchre (1:30-3:30 p.m.). Participants are welcome to bring their own games Bring a dish to pass and your own table service Newcomers welcome. 12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.

*"Kiki's Walk for Fitness & Health": Herb David Guitar Studio. Every Sunday. All seniors age 50 & older are invited to join Kiki David, a 93year-old runner (and Herb David's mother), for an hour-long walk in Gallup Park, weather permitting. 1 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. For information call Herb David at 665-8001 (10 a.m.-6 p.m., except Sundays).

*Ann Arbor Go Club. See 1 Monday. 1-5 p.m.

*"Winter Democratic Rides": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. See 6 Saturday. 1 p.m.

*3rd Annual "Celebration of Light" Open House: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Bota cal activities for all ages, including making birdfeeder ornaments, pine cone fireplace starters, paper stars, candle and fruit centerpieces, and terrariums to take home. Live music by pianist and Matthaei docent Tom Gaffield (1 p.m.) and the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts Junior String Orchestra (2:30 p.m.), and storytelling by Barbara Schultz (2 & 3 p.m.). Also, nature walks and tours of the MBG's elaborate conservatory, housing exotic plants from around the world. A 10-foot poinsettia tree and many blooming orchids and cacti are on display. 1-4 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998-7061.

Christmas Open House: Milan Area Historical Society/Milan Jaycees. Guided tours of the Hack House, a Victorian house that has been decorated to re-create a 19th-century Christmas. Also, announce-ment of the winner of the Jaycees annual Littlest Angel Baby Contest. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Hack House, 775 County St., Milan. \$1.439-7522,

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 7 & 14. Recreation of a 19th-century Christmas, with traditional decorations, Christmas caroling, musical entertainment, craft activities for kids, and freshly baked holiday treats. Tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse are available. 1–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). \$2. (families, \$8; children under 3, free). 994–2928.

*Report on the "School of Assassins": First Unitarian Church/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Interfaith steering committee member Mary Anne Perrone reports on her recent trip to El Salvador and Guatemala with the Watch/Witness for Peace delegation sent to observe activities influenced by the military's School of the Americas. 1 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Free. 761-4323, 663-1870.

★"From Papyri to King James: The Transmission of the English Bible": U-M Special Collections Library. Opening reception for this annual exhibit that draws visitors from around the Midwest. The display of rare and ancient Biblical manuscripts from the U-M's outstanding collection includes 2ndcentury papyrus fragments of the letters of St. Paul, illuminated medieval manuscripts, and an original leaf from the Gutenberg Bible. Today's open house includes a talk by U-M Program in Religious Studies director Ralph Williams on "Diffusion and Dissemination of the Word" (2 p.m.). 1-5 p.m., U-M Special Collections Library, 711 Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. Free. 936-3813.

Holiday Open House: Kempf House Center for Local History. See 6 Saturday. 1-4 p.m.

"Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies and Mesmerizing Science"/"The Mars Show": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 6 Saturday. 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m.

*"Feed the Poets": Del Rio. Open mike poetry readings interspersed with informal readings by fea tured poets to be announced. 1:30-4:30 p.m., Del Rio, 122 W. Washington. Free. 761-2530.

"Charlotte's Web": Theaterworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation "Not Just for Kids Series"). This renowned New York City-based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater with a lavishly staged production of its original adaptation of E. B. White's popular barnyard tale about the friendship between a small pig named Wilbur and a spider named Charlotte. Theaterworks

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gallery review

"Fifteen Visions" Contemporary book art at the UMMA

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Anyone who has used a household telephone directory can attest to the virtues of a bound volume. The codex format, in which thin sheets of paper or parchment are gathered together along one edge, permits extensive storage and easy retrieval of information. The book represents a tremendous innovation over the clay tablet and the scroll, and offers new creative possibilities for form and content. The artists whose works are featured in "Fifteen Visions" take the book as a point of departure, and stretch and distort its familiar aspects to suit their individual visions.

Several works are distinctly sculptural. In Dolph Smith's "Tennarkippi's Unfinished Bridge," two monumental copper-topped wooden covers flank a binding partially covered by planks. "Tennarkippi" is Smith's mythical landscape; its name is derived from the words Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi, and he uses the structure of the book to reflect on his wife's personal development, changes, and moods. Smith calls this a work in progress, one destined to evolve simultaneously with its subject.

Also resembling a sculpture is Martha Lit-tle's "Grammar of Trees," in which the artist binds long twigs and handmade paper pages together to create a playful contrast of forms.



The effect is enhanced by shadows cast against the white base that supports the book. The book's substantial binding incorporates a combination of violin strings and tanned

Pamela Spitzmueller's "Personal Devo-

tional" appropriates a more traditional design: it resembles a medieval Book of Hours, richly decorated and containing prayers and scripture. Spitzmueller's contemporary version uses traditional materials, including paper, fabric, ink, and parchment, and structural elements, such as small edge knots, which are traditionally used to mark significant passages. The text itself, a prayer-like verse in English and Latin, breaks from tradition to span each page in one continuous line, without margins or punctuation.

Several books exhibited have actually been published in limited editions. In John Balkwill's Finding the Space, published by Black Oak Press, the artist's engravings complement poems written by Gary Snyder. The Uncommon Perspective of M. E. J. Colter is designed by Lynne Avadenka and published by her Land Marks Press. It pays tribute to architect Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, who designed and built structures throughout the Southwest. The handmade paper cover includes earth from New Mexico, and is trimmed and folded to resemble an adobe structure. Three chapters are bound among its folds.

From ancient techniques to the most modern, from Barbara Tetenbaum's palm leafstyle book to the cutting-edge binding of Pati Scobey's "The Back of Time," "Fifteen Visions" is a remarkable study of a ubiquitous object. The exhibit remains at the UMMA through January 4. -Susan Kevorkian

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New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library. Half Un-Spoken: Paintings by Amanda Miller (December 1–31). The United States and Japan, Perry to Arthur Wesley Dow (December 1-31). The Power of Beauty: Wall Panels by Janet Webster (December 1-31). Snow Domes (December 1-31). 327-4510.

Kerrytown Concert House. Body Book: Images by Zeuler Lima (through December 13). 769–2999.

Michigan Union. Crossing Over: Images of Transgender Performance Across Cultures (December 1-19). 764-7544.

Power Center. Family, Friends, and a Sense of Community: African-Americans in the 20s and 30s (December 10–14). See *The Harlem Nutcracker* listing on 10 Wednesday. 764–2538.

Reehill Gallery. Trees in Many Settings of Nature: Paintings of Cecil North (December 14-January 8). See 14 Sunday. 663-5503.

Clare Spitler Works of Art. More or Less: The Annual Theme Show (De-cember 7–January 27). See 7 Sunday. 662-8914.

U-M Institute for the Humanities. Acts of Faith: Ceramic Vessels by Susan Crowell (through December 19).

936-3518.

U-M Media Union. Myth USA (December 3-17). See 6 Saturday. 647-5275.

U-M Pierpont Commons. Chelsea Painters (December 3-21). 764-7544.

U-M Slusser Gallery. Primal Garden: Installation by Paul Flickinger (through December 5). 763–4417.

U-M Special Collections Library. From Papyri to King James: The Transmission of the English Bible (December 1-January 31). See 7 Sunday. 764-9377

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 1997–1998 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or www.arborweb.com.

is the country's most widely heralded producer of professional theater for young and family audiences. ts origins date from 1961, when Young Abe Lincoln became the first young people's production to play on Broadway. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$10 (MTF members, \$8.50) in advance at Schoolkids' and the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and at the doc. To charge by phone, call at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

*"American Girls" Club Meeting: Little Profes sor Book Company. Girls ages 7–12 are invited to join this new club built around the popular American Girls. Girls book series. The inaugural meeting last month drew such a crowd that two clubs have been formed; pick the time that best suits you. 2 & 4 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free.

7th Annual Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis: Domino's Pizza. People of all ages and fitness levels are welcome to join this festive, lighthearted 5-km run or walk. or walk to raise funds for arthritis research. Includes an "Elf Mile" run or walk for kids aged 12 and under. The der. The race is held at Domino's Farms, where participants can enjoy the Christmas lights display. All entrante can enjoy the Christmas lights display. entrants receive a pair of jingle bells for their shoes. Prizes to the top individual and team runners and walkers. Participants are encouraged to dress up as elves rained. elves, reindeer, Santas, snowmen, or what have you and enter a costume contest. 2-4 p.m. (registration), 4:30 p.m. (run), 5:15 p.m. (Elf run), Domino's Farms Lobby E parking lot, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off E.) Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). 5-km fee: \$25 in advance, \$30 day of race. Elf Mile: \$2. Entry forms available at Running Fit and Tortoise

and Hare. (800) 968-3030.

"Kerry Tales: Time for Toys and Mother Goose": Story Time at Kerrytown (Kerrytown Shops/Workbench Furniture). This 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun features local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Workbench, 2nd-floor children's furniture area, 410 N. Fourth Ave., Kerrytown. Free. 769-3115.

*Sunday Tour: U-M Museum of Art. Every Sunday (except December 28). UMMA docents lead an hour-long tour of museum holdings. Today: "George Bellows." Also this month: "Sepphoris in Galilee" (December 14) and "Lost Russia" (December 21). 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764–0395.

*"Zippori Live!": U-M Museum of Art. Costumed actors help bring to life the museum's "Sep-phoris in Galilee" exhibit, which examines the rich multicultural history of the ancient Galilean city of Sepphoris, known as Zippori in Hebrew. Dramatized scenes include a Roman couple discussing their daily lives, two learned rabbis debating the finer points of Jewish law, a rabbi arguing with a Roman actress, and more. 2–5 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University & Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764-0395, 647-0441.

★37th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: EMU Music Department. Measure for Measure, a local men's chorus, joins the the EMU University Choir, Chamber Choir, and Women's Glee Club to present the Christmas story through a program of alternating text and song adapted from the famous

Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Leonard Riccinto and Ernest Brandon conduct. 2 & 5 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti, 209 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti. Free.

★Matt Drexler: Depot Town Association/Jewish Cultural Society. This local singer-songwriter performs a children's concert of Hanukkah and other Jewish songs (2 & 3 p.m.). Free dreidels to all chil-dren. Also, a latke (potato pancake) "fry-off" competition and other holiday attractions through the afternoon. 2–5 p.m., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. For latke fry-off information, call 434–4555.

"Fried Blues Icicles Holiday Festival": Michigan Union Arts & Programs/Aurora Borealis Producvariety show headlined by storytellers LaRon Williams (telling African and African-American folk tales) and Debra Christian (with stories from the old country and the New World). Also, original folk songs and spoken-word performance by Whitley Setrakian, performance poetry by Decky Alexander, and a traditional Old English Christmas mummers' play by the Ann Arbor Morris and Sword Dancers. 2 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club, 530 S. State. \$7 (students & seniors, \$5; children 6-12, \$3; kids 5 & under, free) at the door. 668-1359, 763-3202.

★Holiday Entertainment Series: Briarwood Mall. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas at Our Place": Varsity Blues and Company. See 6 Saturday. 2 p.m.

Handel's "Messiah": University Musical Society. See 6 Saturday. 2 p.m.

Lest is the feeling we should have about life. **Joy** from our work and loved ones should occur naturally

The natural states of zest and iov can be blocked or inhibited. Fear or worry can interfere. Unconscious feelings, beliefs, ideas and fears can be operating without our even knowing it. We may experience increased or decreased sleep, appetite or sexual desire, tearfulness, hopelessness, irritability, or have suicidal thoughts. Conflicts with significant others or at work may appear to be external when in fact they are caused by internal conflicts. Unconscious conflicts and/or buried emotional traumas may be keeping us away from others or compulsively driving us toward others in unproductive ways. Sometimes all that may be apparent is that zest is lacking, and we have little joy for life.

The absence of zest and joy is not natural but we may have wrongly grown to believe that not having them is normal. Usually the interferences of zest and joy are partial and thus we are living at a limited capacity. Most often the interferences can be removed, zest can return, and life can be enjoyed

Proper and thorough assessment of the blockage and a designed means to remove them are essential. Everyone deserves such an assessment and the subsequent opportunity to feel zestful about life.

For Consultation call

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POST HOLIDAY BLUES — OR SOMETHING MORE?

Many people become depressed after the holidays. For some, the depression is very deep and disruptive. Is such a reaction simply an adjustment to the resumption that you will feel a "let down" after the rush of the holidays? Or does a depression in January or February indicate other issues? How can you differentiate between a 'let down' after the holidays and a more serious depression? Why does it matter whether you can know the

A post-holiday let down will feel quite different from a more serious depression. The former may be described by the feeling of "Gosh, I hate to go back to work." Or "I don't want my vacation to be over yet." A more serious depression is characterized by some combination of anger, lack of involvement in life, difficulty sleeping, and a sense of being blocked or an inability to 'get going.' You will not necessarily experience all of the above symptoms, but what you

experience will have a deeper, more pervasive aspect than just regret that the holidays

pre-existing depression, why does it surface during or after the holidays?" People who have experienced disappointments early in life often look to the holidays to solve such deprivations. They are inevitably disappointed. But how can you know if what you feel is simply disappointment, or something more? If you find yourself being angry over the gifts you received, or angry at family members, and the anger does not subside, you may be experiencing something more.

It is important to know the difference between a post holiday 'let down' and a prevailing depression stimulated by the holiday because the latter unneces interferes with a fulfilling life. Post holiday 'blues' go away in a short time. Depression will only go away if it is addressed and treated.

For further information or an appointment you may call: Lynne G. Tenbusch, Ph.D., P.C., Licensed Psychologist, Psychoanalyst

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EVENTS continued

"Stuart Little": Junior Theater (Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education and Recreation)/Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 4 Thursday.

"Princess Ida": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"No Exit": Peridot Productions. See 4 Thursday. 2

"Henry V": U-M Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

The Incredible Boris Kids' Show: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 2:30 p.m.

*Ann Arbor-Motown Hash House Harriers. Every Sunday. The local chapter of an unorthodox international running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's primary task is to follow a trail, laid out by a club member, that has been designed to trick runners into losing their way. The usual result is to make the fastest (lead) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and soft drinks hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant for refreshments. 3 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For location and information, call 332-9314.

Alternative Holiday Fair: First Baptist Church/Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. Offers handmade arts and crafts from Third World countries, a chance to sponsor live farm animals (on hand and available for petting) to go to needy farm families, and other items to benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. 3-7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission.

*"More or Less: The Annual Theme Show": Clare Spitler Works of Art. Opening reception for this group show of works in all media on the title theme. 3-6 p.m., Clare Spitler Works of Art, 2007 Pauline Ct. Free. 662-8914.

"An Italian Straw Hat": Young Actors Guild. See 5 Friday. 3 p.m.

"La Boutique Fantasque": Ypsilanti Area Dancers/Salvation Army Advisory Board. See 6 Saturday. 3 p.m.

*"Stumbling Toward Enlightenment": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party. Geri Larkin, an ordained local dharma teacher, discusses her recently published book about her discovery of Zen Buddhism while seeking relief from the stress of her career as a management consultant. 4-6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

*Chamber Music Concert: U-M Residential College. Maria Kardas Barna directs RC students in a program of chamber duets, trios, quartets, quintets, and ensemble works. 4 p.m., Residential College auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free.

*Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music. This top-notch music-student ensemble performs world premieres of works by Brian Bevelander and John Polito, the American premiere of a piece by Per Norgard, and other contemporary works. The Percussion Ensemble has performed to acclaim around the world and has released 3 CDs. The group's concerts are exciting, energetic, and generally a lot of fun. 4 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

*Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music. U-M music faculty and guests to be announced perform Schubert's String Trio in B-flat, Menotti's Suite for Two Cellos and Piano, and Dvorak's Sextet in A. 4 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway),

Mimosa: Kerrytown Concert House. This Toledobased ensemble led by harpist Susan Hedler and marimbist Doctor Baby Elmo performs "an eclectic cafe of chamber sounds," from Baroque-era chamber music to ragtime to jazz. The duo's distinctive sound is often enhanced by guitar, acoustic bass, or flute. Today's program includes a transcription of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. 4 p.m., Kerryto Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$7 & \$10 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.

Christmas Concert: Ann Arbor Cantata Singers. Bill Boggs directs this accomplished local chorus in a program of Christmas songs from around the world, sung both a cappella and accompanied by

harp, marimba, and guitar. Also, a storyteller recounts seasonal tales. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth St. \$10 (students & seniors, \$5) at the door. 975-9151. See 6

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20th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia College. See 5 Friday. 4 p.m.

*Jazz Mass: Canterbury House. Worship service with live music by the Steve Rush Quartet, an en-semble led by U-M composer Rush that plays original music ranging from folk to techno-jazz to rock 'n' roll. 5 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. Free; offering taken. 665-0606.

*Morris Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris & Sword Dancers. Every Sunday. All invited to learn this traditional form of English ceremonial dance dating back to medieval times. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable soft-soled shoes. 6-8 p.m., location to be announced. Free. For information, call

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dancers. December 7 & 14. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 6 p.m. by intermediate cha-cha lessons, and at 7 p.m. by rumba lessons. 6-8 p.m. (lessons), 8-10 p.m. (general dancing), Michigan Union Ballroom. \$2.763-6984.

★U-M Gospel Chorale. U-M senior Janae Pitts directs this 90-member choir made up of U-M students and faculty in a program of contemporary and traditional gospel music, including spirituals. The group, founded in 1988, performs frequently in the community and has opened for such artists as The Winans, Yolanda Adams, and Sounds of Blackness. 6 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-3088.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10

★"Mount Everest the Right Way: Into the Wel-coming Air of Sherpa Country": Journeys International. Slide-illustrated talk by Journeys codirectors Joan and Will Weber (see Ann Arborites, p. 25), who discuss their experiences organizing treks to the Sherpa villages and high valleys of Nepal's Everest region. Followed by an information session on Journeys' 1998 20th Anniversary Asian Trips. 7 p.m. Bivouac, 336 S. State St. Free. 665-4407.

"House Blend" Series: Ann Arbor Playwrights. December 7 & 21. All invited to hear a reading of a new play by a local playwright, followed by discussion. Tonight: Lyn Coffin's Where There's a Will There's a Murder, about a group of employees who meet at their boss's house for a murder game that gets a bit carried away. 7 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. \$2 suggested donation. 913-9749.

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. Every Sunday. Dancing to late-30s swing and 40s R&B by this veteran local big band led by Urbations saxophonist David Swain. 7-9:30 p.m., Heidelberg Restaurant (3rd floor), 215 N. Main. \$3.663-7758.

★10th Annual Festival of Lights: Village of Chelsea. See 5 Friday. Today's special events include a Festival of Lessons and Carols (7 p.m., Chelsea United Methodist Church). 7-9 p.m.

*Cabaret Night: Kerrytown Concert House. Students of U-M voice professor Joan Morris perform cabaret repertory. 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 763-4726.

★Horn Studio: U-M School of Music. Students of U-M horn professor Bryan Kennedy perform a variety of pieces for brass. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

Israeli Dancing: Hillel. Tom Starks leads 45 minutes of instruction for beginners, followed by open dancing. 8–10 p.m., 1429 Hill St. \$2.50.769–0500.

Pat Donahue: The Ark. Acclaimed as a "major artist in contemporary acoustic music" by Frets magazine, Donahue is a finger-picking guitar virtuoso known for the technical perfection and interpretive tact he brings to blues, country, jazz, and swing idioms. "His genre-bending approach fuses the right-hand Piedmont finger-style of Blind Blake and Blind Boy Fuller with the harmonic vocabulary of Charlie Christian and Wes Montgomery," says Guitar Player critic Kevin Ransom. Donahue has a strong, sweet voice and is an engagingly unpretentious performer. A local favorite ever since he stole the show at the 1991 Ann Arbor Folk Festival. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 (members, students, & seniors, \$10) at the door only. 761–1451.

MTF/U-M Alliance for AIDS Awareness. "Alive and Kicking" (Nancy Meckler, 1996). Compelling love story about a ballet dancer with AIDS. Mich., 7:30 p.m. "Gattaca" (Andrew M. Niccol, 1997).

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8 MONDAY

*15th Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 5 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

*Women's Book Group: Guild House. December 8 & 22. All women invited to discuss a book on women's issues or by a woman writer to be announced. Noon-1 p.m. Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 662-5189.

*Senior Hearing Tests: St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. December 8-12. St. Joseph medical staff conduct free hearing tests for seniors this week. 1-5 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Senior Technology 530! E. Huron River Dr. Free, but appointments re-quired. Call 712–5400 or (800) 231–2211.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas, See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

"Journal Writing as a Tool for Change." Talk by local social worker Phyllis Perry. 7 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 973–8699.

*"Admiral Raphael Semmes and C.S.S. Alabama": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Club member Chuck Rice talks about this famous Confederate sea raider and his vessel. All invited to Join this group that meets monthly to discuss the Civil War and works for the preservation of historic battlegrounds. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 930–0617, 973–6273, or 973–1047.

*"Overrepresentation of Minorities and Out-comes in the Juvenile Justice System": U-M Research Club/U-M Women's Research Club. Talk by U-M social work professor emerita Rosemary Sarri. Refreshments. All invited. 7 p.m., Rackham West Conference Room (4th floor). Free. 662-8067.

*Donald Byrd: University Musical Society "Master of Arts" Interview. This renowned choreographer, in town for a production of his ballet The Harlem Nutcracker (see 10 Wednesday), is interviewed by Kimberly Camp, president of the Museum of African-American History in Detroit. 7 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Admission by free ticket, available in advance at the Burton Tower box office. 764-2538.

*Martin Lee: Borders Books and Music. This ward-winning journalist discusses The Beast Reawakens, his recently published exploration of the contemporary resurgence of neo-Nazism and fascism. A U-M grad, Lee is cofounder of the media re search group Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) and the author of Acid Dreams: The CIA, LSD, and the Sixties Rebellion. Note: Lee is the keynote speaker at the Jewish Book Fair on December Co. F. Liber ber 6 (see listing). 7:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668-7652.

*"Health and Chiropractic": Network Chiro-practic Center. December 8 & 27. A series of talks local chiropractor Rob Koliner. This month "Chiropractic and Its Influence on Health" (tonight) and "Creating Optimal Health" (Decem ber 27). 8 p.m., Network Chiropractic Center, 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free. Reservations requested. 761-5908.

*University and Chamber Choirs: U-M School of Music. Jerry Blackstone directs the Chamber Choir in works by Giovanelli, Stoltzer, Lauridsen, Mendelssohn, and Taverner. Sandra Snow directs the University Choir in Pinkham's "Christmas Canlata" and the University Choir in Pinkham's "Christmas Canlata". lata" and other works. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free.

"Contact Improvisation Dance and Acoustic Jam": Magic Dragon Studios. See 1 Monday. 8:30-11 p.m.

*Writers Series: Guild House. Performances by Steve Marsh, a former Ann Arbor Grand Slam ion, and the members of the 1997 Detroit National Slam team. Also, Marsh talks about the art of 3-minute "slam" poems. 8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677-6839, 662-5189.

FILMS

MTF. "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" (Amy Heckerling, 1982). Comedy about life at a southern California high school. Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh. Mich., 4 p.m. "L.A. Confidential" (Curtis Hanson, 1997). See 6 Saturday. Mich., 9:15 p.m.

9 TUESDAY

*Morning Coffee: Newcomers Club of Ann Arbor, Informal; children welcome. Open to all women who have moved or returned to the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. 10 a.m.-noon, St. Luke's Lutheran Ch. an Church, 4205 Washtenaw. Free, 668-2872.

*"The Adventures of a Bookseller Poet": Ann

Arbor District Library "Booked for Lunch." Local poet Keith Taylor, the trade book manager at Shaman Drum Bookshop, reads some of his poems and discusses his bookselling experiences. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 9. 12:10-1 p.m., Arbor District Library multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8328.

*Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. December 9 & 13. Guided tours of the city's new recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include gift-making projects for kids (and interested adults) using recycled materials. 1–4 p.m. (December 9) & 10 a.m.-noon (December 13), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free.

★"The Magic of Writing and Rediscovery of Ancient Wisdom: Mysticism, Prophecy, and Renovation in Early Modern Islamdom": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. Talk by University of Chicago history professor Cornell Fleischer. 4 p.m., Rackham East Conference Room (4th floor). Free. 764-0350.

Second Tuesday Wine Tasting: Mediterrano. A series of fun and relaxed monthly wine tastings fea-turing the wines of different countries and regions. Each session highlights four wines from a particular country, with finger foods and tips on tasting. Tonight: wines of Greece. 6 p.m., Mediterrano, 2900 S. State St. at Eisenhower (in the Concord Center). \$15.95. For reservations, call 332-9700.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★"Origami Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library. Local origami expert Don Shall presents another of his popular family-oriented workshops introducing the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Kids under 5 must be accompanied by an adult to assist them. Supplies provided. 7-8 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327-8301

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. December 23. Don Theyken and Eric Arnold teach historical and traditional dances from England, with live music by David West and Donna Baird. All dances taught; new dancers welcome. No partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and casual attire. 7-9:45 p.m., Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.). \$4. 663-0744, 662-5158.

*Monthly Meeting: Amnesty International Ann Arbor Group 61. All invited to join this group that works on behalf of political prisoners around the world. This month's agenda to be announced. 7:30 Michigan Union Welker Room. Free.

"Cuba in 1997": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Slide-illustrated talk by Joel Heeres, a member of the U-M Overseas Development Network, who spent a month in Cuba this past summer. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663-1870.

*Monthly Meeting: WAUG. This month's meeting is a "Christmas Party with Computer Games." WAUG is a multi-platform computer user 7:30-9:30 p.m., Colonial Lanes meeting room, 1950 South Industrial. Free. 971-8576.

*Groupe de Français. Monthly gathering for fluent French speakers to enjoy conversation. 7:30-9 p.m., Cafe Zola, 112 W. Washington. Free. 996-1848.

★"Romance Readers": Barnes & Noble. All invited to discuss Mary Balogh's Silent Melody and Dickens's A Christmas Carol. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6475.

Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. See 2 Tuesday. Tonight: Dawn Farm residents and staff participate in a panel discussion on "Treatment and Recovery." 7:30 p.m.

Swing Dance Jam. See 2 Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

★EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department. Anthony Iannaccone directs EMU music fac-ulty and students in a program of 17th- and 18thcentury choral and instrumental music. 8 p.m., Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.

★University Symphony and Philharmonia Or-chestras: U-M School of Music. Pier Calabria directs the Philharmonia in Bellini's Overture to Norma, Puccini's Manon Lescaut Intermezzo, and excerpts from Busoni's Turandot. Ken Kiesler directs the Symphony in Aharon Harlap's "Music for the Festival of Lights" and Respighi's tone poem "Roman Festivals." 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free.

★"Waterbug Records Showcase": The Ark. An

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evening with four artists from this Chicago-based label that specializes in singer-songwriters with a strong impressionist bent. Performers include Waterbug founder Andrew Calhoun; his wife, Kat Eggleston; folk-country chanteuse Susan Shore; and Sam Pacetti, an acoustic guitar wiz from Florida. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 761–1451.

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. See 2 Tuesday. 8:30–11:30 p.m.

Open Mike Comedy Jam: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 2 Tuesday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF/EMU Communications Department. "Citizen Kane" (Orson Welles, 1941). Classic drama about the rise and fall of a powerful newspaper mogul. FREE. Mich., 11 a.m & 4 p.m. "Everyone Says I Love You" (Woody Allen, 1996). December 9 & 11. A musical depicting the muddled lives and loves of a wealthy family from New York's Upper East Side. Woody Allen, Alan Alda, Goldie Hawn, Drew Barrymore. Mich., 7 p.m. "Gattaca" (Andrew M. Niccol, 1997). See 6 Saturday. Mich., 9:15 p.m. U-Club. "Liar Liar" (Tom Shadyac, 1997). A fast-talking lawyer and pathological liar changes his ways when his child's birthday wish comes true and forces him to tell the truth. Jim Carrey. \$1. Free soda and popcorn. U-Club, 9 p.m.

10 WEDNESDAY

★"Moving Beyond the Basics": Ann Arbor District Library. December 10 & 16 (different branch locations). Introduction to the finer details of using a Web browser, including using bookmarks, saving to disk, and how to evaluate Web sites. 8:30 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library Northeast & West branches (December 10) & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Loving Branch (December 16). Free. Preregistration required. 994–1674 (West), 994–2353 (Loving), 996–3180 (Northeast).

★"Holiday Flower Design": Northeast Senior Center. Talk and demonstration by Tim Galea of Norton's Flowers and Gifts. 11 a.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 996–0070.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Wednesday. Tonight: "Thomas Hart Benton" (December 10 & 11), Ken Burns's film about the uncompromising Depression-era painter. 12:10 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 3 Wednesday. 3:30-5:15 p.m.

★"Finding Time: How Corporations, Individuals, and Families Can Benefit from New Work Practices": Shaman Drum Bookshop Publication Party. U-M business professor Leslie Perlow is on hand to sign copies of her recently published study. Refreshments. 4–6 p.m., Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.

*"New Voices Rising": Washtenaw Community College. WCC students, staff, and guests offer dance, theater, and dramatic readings on a theme to be announced. 4 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Theater, Liberal Arts Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3300.

2nd Annual Italian Film Festival/Great Lakes: Michigan Theater Foundation. December 10–13. This year's festival features the films of Francesco Rosi, who has explored the life and culture of his native southern Italy, particularly the politics of postwar life, in the course of a career that spans half a century. The director comes to town tomorrow for a gala benefit screening of his new film, The Truce (see 11 Thursday). All films are in Italian with English subtitles, except The Truce, which is Rosi's first English-language film.

Tonight's films: Just Another War (5 p.m.), a powerful 1970 antiwar film about a futile battle between Italians and Austrians during WWI; Salvatore Giuliano (7 p.m.), a 1961 film based on the life of the Sicilian bandit and folk hero; and Hands Over the City (9:15 p.m.), a sophisticated, cynical 1963 drama about municipal corruption. 5, 7, & 9:15 p.m., Michigan Theater. Individual film tickets: \$6.50 (children, students, & seniors, \$5; MTF members, \$4.50). Series pass (includes all 11 films): \$45. Tickets for The Truce only: \$15 (students, \$10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS, (810) 645-6666, or 668-TIME.

Annual Holiday Auction: American Business Women's Association Embers Chapter. Dinner and an auction of handcrafted gift items auctioned off by the popular, entertaining team of Braun & Helmer. Proceeds go to scholarships for the education of women. 6 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. \$20. For reservations, call Kimberly Johnson at

comedy

The Incredible Boris A night at the beach

Chances are, if you close your eyes and try to picture a hypnotist, you'll see the Incredible Boris staring back at you. Boris looks like a hypnotist: dark, graceful, and kind of beady-eyed. He bounded onto the stage at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase last spring and wasted no time in telling us what to expect: "Someone next to you might suddenly drop into your lap. Thank me later."

And it was true. After luring seven volunteers onto the stage, turning on a cheesy, throbbing, synth-infused tape, and going through the whole relax-count-backward-look-at-my-hand thing, heads were dropping all around me. Boris left his seven snoozing volunteers and went through the audience checking on people, rousing some of them, and escorting others up to the stage where they continued their, uh, nap. After the Incredible Boris woke and dismissed a few folks, five slumped ones remained. All in all, an impressive beginning.

Boris started off with a beach scene. "When you wake up," he intoned, "you will be on a beach in the sun. It is very hot." Then the magic words: "Let it sink in." With a snap of the fingers, our quintet was easin' back, coppin' some rays. At Boris's suggestion, they all ordered a drink from an invisible passing waiter. At another suggestion, they all immediately started twirling their drink umbrellas. They were feeling no pain. Then Boris dropped the temp. Pretty soon the guests of honor were huddling together, clutching complete strangers, for warmth. He awakened them mid-clutch, to the uproarious howls of the audience.

Boris erased the number "six" from one woman's mind, then had her count her fingers ("One, two, three, four, five, seven . . ."). He knocked the audience out again, then instructed them that upon awakening they would believe a giant bird was sitting on their shoulder pecking their ears. ("Let it sink in!") An-



other suggestion found a man and woman, complete strangers (supposedly), doing a slow-motion run toward each other, à la long-lost lovers. Later, the man gave birth to an ugly stuffed animal, suckled it tenderly, etc. The crowd went wild.

Looking back on it, I think I have it figured out. Hypnosis simply makes people willing and eager to play bad theater games. At first I was intrigued, then suspicious, then bored. The problem was, the volunteers never stopped smiling even when a "gun" was pointed at them. They never seemed to really believe the stuff they were told, but they tried very hard to make it look as if they did. Their responses seemed scripted and cutesy. They screamed at the gun, they swatted at the bird, they slathered on the sunblock. And they never stopped smiling.

Boris finished off his show with a quickie hypnosis treat for the audience. With his synth-tape hissing behind him, he told us we would no longer smoke, overeat, be stressed out, etc. And I have to admit, I was starting to feel a little different. I was getting sleepy.

The Incredible Boris returns to the Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, December 4-7 & 11-14 for a two-week run that includes children's shows on Sunday afternoons.

-Kate Conner-Ruben

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1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★Joe Gagnon: Little Professor Book Company. WJR radio's popular "Appliance Doctor" discusses the "care and feeding of domestic machines" and signs copies of his book, First Aid from the Appliance Doctor. 7 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

★Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Magic Club. All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. 7 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.), Free. For information, call Harry Colestock at 663–5257.

★Monthly Meeting: Huron Land Use Alliance. All invited to discuss ways to promote preservation of open space and the development of livable communities in Washtenaw County. 7–9 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 769–5123.

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. See 3 Wednesday. 7-11 p.m.

*Monthly Meeting: Michigan Chapter of Wild Ones. Dave Mindell, stewardship coordinator of the city parks department's natural areas preservation (NAP) division, discusses NAP's new educational brochures on native plant use, and NAP staff members Trish Beckford and Sally Moore discuss "Shade Gardening Using Native Plants." Wild Ones is a national organization that promotes land-scaping using native plant species. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass and your own plates, silverware, and cups). 7:30 p.m., Huron High School, room 2100 (west entrance, under the arch). Free. For information, call Bob Grese at 763-0645 or Dave Borneman at 994-4834.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. EMU. 8 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$12 & \$15.764-0247.

★"J. P. McCarthy: Just Don't Tell 'Em Where I

Am": Barnes & Noble. Mike Shiels, who produced J. P. McCarthy's show for the last 5 years of its 30-year run, signs copies of his new book about the late WJR radio host. 8–9 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.

Scandinavian Folk Dancing: Multicultural Folk Arts Center. Traditional turning couple dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including hambo, schottis, Boda polska, and Telespringar. All dances taught by Judy Barlas and Bruce Sagan; no partner necessary. Hard-soled shoes strongly recommended. Occasional live music on traditional instruments. All invited. 8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., 1/2 mile south of 1-94. \$4.327–3636.

*"The Complete Songs of Henri Dupare": U-M School of Music. U-M faculty and staff perform the small but exquisite body of songs by this 19th-century French composer, a contemporary of Liszt and Wagner. The 13 songs are known for their almost perfect union of words and music and for melodies imbued with great substance and emotional intensity. Performers are sopranos Deborah Glover and Caroline Helton, baritone Gary Moss, tenor Scott Piper, and bass-baritone Allan Schrott. Pianist is the superb accompanist Martin Katz. 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 763-4726.

★El Mariachi Michicano. Candida Jaquez directs this mariachi ensemble made up of members of the U-M and surrounding Ann Arbor community in a concert of traditional boleros, polkas, and huapangos. 8 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 936–1443.

★EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department. Whitney Prince and Mike Hall direct these two music-student ensembles in a program to be announced. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS • HAPPY HOLIDAYS • HAPPY HOLIDAYS •

HAPPY HOLIDAYS • HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dee Dee Bridgewater: Prism Productions. December 10 & 11. This acclaimed jazz singer is a Saginaw native who has been living in Paris for the past several years. A very expressive vocalist who uses lots of whoops and hollers and other nonverbal sounds in a style that borders on scat singing, Bridgewater recently released a new Verve LP, Dear Ella, an acclaimed tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. 8 & 10 p.m., Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$20 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645-6666; for information cell 662, 2210 tion, call 662-8310.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": Donald Byrd/The Group (University Musical Society). December 10-14. See review, p. 73. Return of last year's smash hit, a jazzy, innovative version of Tchaikovsky's famous Christmas ballet. Groundbreaking choreographer Donald Byrd (a Detroit native) has transformed the Russian fairy tale into a story of an African-American family in Harlem. The central character, Clara, here is an elderly woman looking back on her life, the Nutcracker is her beloved husband, and the magical fairyland of the original ballet is the glittering nightclub scene of Harlem in the 1930s. Byrd's acclaimed New York dance company, The Group, performs in a variety of styles from classical ballet to modern dance and hip-hop. The music is Duke Ellington's jazz arrangement of Tchaikovsky's score, with additional orchestration by former Ellington Orchestra member David Berger. Marcus Belgrave directs a jazz orchestra and a chorus made up of local gospel choirs. *Note:* Related events this month include an exhibit on African-American history at the Power Center (December 10–14), a "Links to Literature" reading (see 4 Thursday), and an interview with choreographer Byrd (see 8 Monday). day). 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$16-\$34 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800)

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Totally Unrehearsed Theater": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m.

Uncertainty Principles: U-Club. This U-M student comedy troupe presents an evening of improvisational sketches. Note: Guests not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the show. 9 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. \$3 at the door. 763–3202.

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CG. Film to be announced. Lorch, 8 p.m. 994-0027.
MTF. 2nd Annual Italian Film Festival/Great Lakes. See Events listing above. Mich., 5, 7, & 9:15

11 THURSDAY

*"Physiology of the Hand": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Lecture and keyboard demonstration by physical therapist Karen Shoner. 9 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665-5346.

4th Annual "Holiday Sampler": Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by more than 30 area artisans, including whimsical and classic jewelry, chenille blankets and scarves, boiled wool garments and accessories, primitive folk art, sta-tionery and paper goods, art dolls, santas, snow people, angels, dried flowers, and more. Proceeds benefit college scholarships for women. Also, the Conger Group hosts its annual "Home for the Holidays" tour today (as a half of the Holidays). today (see below). 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. \$2 admission.

"Home for the Holidays": Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of four area homes spectacularly decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. women. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$15 (includes map) in advance at many area stores and by calling 662-2746.

*"Political Cinema: Agent for Social Transfor-mation and/or Postwar Cultural Catharsis": Michigan Theater Foundation. Italian film director Francesco Rosi joins a panel of scholars for a discussion of his work, in conjunction with the Italian Film Part of the Michigan Theater this week Film Festival held at the Michigan Theater this week (see 10 Wednesday and below). 3 p.m., Rackham East Conference Room (4th floor). Free. 668-TIME.

*Boychoir of Ann Arbor: Shaman Drum Bookshop. The Boychoir's preparatory choir, an ensemble of boys ages 8–11, performs a program of holiday music. Tom Strode directs. Refreshments. 4:30 Shaman Drum Bookshop, 315 S. State. Free.

2nd Annual Italian Film Festival/Great Lakes: Michigan Theater Foundation. See 10 Wednesday. Tonight's films: The Challenge (5:15 p.m.), a gritty 1958 neorealist drama about an ambitious young smuggler who runs up against the Mafia in Naples; and the Midwest premiere of *The Truce* (7:30 p.m.), a story of Italian Jews returning home from Auschwitz after WWII, based on Primo Levi's autobiographical novel The Reawakening. Director Francesco Rosi is on hand for a discussion and reception after the screening. 5:15 & 7:30 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club. Bring a dish to pass for this annual holiday potluck dinner. Also, auction of bird items. Bring your bird. All invited. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. (313) 928–4270.

"Beer Tasting: Seasonal Beers": Arbor Brewing Company. A chance to sample and learn about 18-24 different specialty Christmas beers. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a light appetizer buffet. 7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.

★Monthly Meeting: Experimental Aircraft Association. All who share an interest in aircraft and aviation techniques are welcome at the meetings of this local chapter of a national organization that sponsors the nation's largest air show every August in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Program to be announced. 7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Airport Terminal Bldg., 801 Airport Dr. (off S. State just south of I-94). Free. For information, call George Hunt at 475–1553.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Wednesday. Tonight: "Thomas Hart Benton" (December 10 & 11), Ken Burns's film about the uncompromising Depression-era painter. 7:30 p.m.

*"Songwriters Open Mike": Oz's Music. All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. The performances are videotaped and edited for a weekly show on cable channel 9, Fridays, 8:30-9:30 p.m. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662-8283.

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. See 4 Thursday. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

"The Miracle Worker": Young Actors Guild. December 11-13. A cast of young actors presents William Gibson's compelling drama about the early life of writer Helen Keller and the teacher who helped her overcome the blindness and deafness that had trapped her in a world of isolation. 7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. \$7 (children ages 11 & under, \$5) in advance or at the door. For reservations, call 930-1614.

"Open Jam": Griff's Jams. See 4 Thursday. 8-11

Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen: The Ark. An evening of traditional and contemporary songs of the winter season by the all-star female trio of Priscilla Herdman, Anne Hills, and Cindy Mangsen. Separately, each possesses a beautifully clear soprano and a mastery of the folk ballad; together, they are known for their inventive, intricate harmonies and their interpretive warmth and poignancy. They have released an acclaimed 1990 CD, Voices. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. December 11-13. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. The pieces in this year's concert explore themes of restriction, passion, and constriction. These shows usually sell out, so get there early. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$8 (students, \$6) at the door only. 763–5460.

"Dutchman": Performance Network. December 11-14. EMU African-American theater program director Wallace Bridges directs Amiri Baraka's 1964 allegorical drama about the oppression of young black men in a racist society. A middle-class black college student riding the subway en route to a party is joined by a white seductress who teases him with sex, stereotypes him as an Uncle Tom, and calls him sex, stereotypes film as an Oncie 10m, and calls film every racist name in the book. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 408 W. Washington. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$9; Thursdays, whatever you can afford to pay) in advance by reservation and at the door. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": Donald Byrd/The Group (University Musical Society). See 10 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose The-



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EVENTS continued

ater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m. The Incredible Boris: Mainstreet Comedy Show-

case, See 4 Thursday, 8:30 p.m.

Largest Guitar

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County!

MTF. "Everyone Says I Love You" (Woody Allen, 1996). See 9 Tuesday. Mich., 3 p.m. MTF. 2nd Annual Italian Film Festival/Great Lakes. See Events listing above. Mich., 5:15 & 7:30 p.m.

12 FRIDAY

*"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library. December 12 & 19 (different programs). A series of 30-minute film programs for preschoolers. Today: Four animated shorts adapted from children's stories, Roger Duvoisin's Petunia (a silly goose carries a book under her wing to gain knowledge), the Japanese fable Stone Cutter (a stone cutter's wishes for wealth and power are granted by a mountain spirit), and Tomie De Paola's Charlie Needs a Cloak (a shepherd shows how cloth is made from wool), and Jack Kent's Joey Runs Away (a baby kangaroo runs away from home when he tires of his mother complaining about his messy room in her pouch). Recommended for preschoolers. 10 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; first come, first seated. 327-8301.

2nd Annual Italian Film Festival/Great Lakes: Michigan Theater Foundation. See 10 Wednesday. Tonight's films: More Than a Miracle (6 p.m.), a 1967 romantic fantasy set in 17th-century Naples and starring Omar Sharif as a Spanish prince who falls in love with a peasant girl, played by Sophia Loren; Rosi's best-known film, Three Brothers (8:30 p.m.), a 1981 story of 3 brothers reunited at the family home on the occasion of their mother's death; and *The Mattei Affair* (10:45 p.m.), a 1972 drama based on the life of the controversial postwar oil czar Enrico Mattei. 6, 8:30 & 10:45 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

"Moonlight Serenade": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Cross-country skiing along groomed and lighted paths. Weather permitting. 6:30-9:30 p.m., Huron Hills Ski Center, 3465 E. Huron River Dr. at Huron Pkwy. \$2.50 trail fee. Ski rentals available (adults, \$6; youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.75). 971-6840.

*Pathwork Lecture/Discussion Evening: Great Lakes Pathwork. All invited to discuss lectures channeled by the late Eva Pierrakos, founder of the Pathwork. Tonight: Lecture 68: "Suppression of Positive and Creative Tendencies." 7-9 p.m., 2518 Jade Ct. (off S. Maple, 2 blocks north of Scio Church Rd.). Free. 665-6231, 769-0268.

*3rd Annual "Dancing Christmas Carols": Christian Dance Network/Word of God. A fun, casual Christmas-themed open house for all ages. Participants can learn simple folk-style dances to popular Christmas carols, take part in craft activities, or simply watch and enjoy a dessert potluck. Costumed dancers and special guests also perform. 7-10 p.m., Forsythe Middle School cafeteria, 1655 Newport Rd. Free. 662-9890.

*Monthly Bardic Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join an evening of free-form drumming, singing, and dancing. 7-11 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill St. (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 480-2082.

"Bride of the Isles: A Celtic Christmas Legend": The Celtic Muses, December 12 & 14 (different locations). Local storyteller Rosemary Caruso presents this traditional Christmas tale from the Scottish isle of Iona, based on the legend of Bride (or Bridget), known in Celtic legend as the "foster mother of the Child." Caruso is accompanied by Wanita Forgacs on guitar, cello, and psaltery. Recommended for adults and children age 8 & older. 7 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. \$7 at the door only. 995-2341.

★"Festive Friday Fun Night": Main Street Area Association. See 5 Friday. 7–9 p.m.

"Seth Series on Emerging Multidimensional Relationships": Ann Arbor Practical Psychic Center. Talk by John Friedlander, coauthor of The Practical Psychic and a member of Jane Roberts's original Seth channeling group. Friedlander channels Seth and takes questions. 7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Joseph's Hospital Education Center Auditorium 5301 E. Huron River Dr. \$10. 662-7046, 663-6075.

*Monthly Discussion: Older Lesbians Organizing. Tonight's topic: "Fit as a Fiddle." Newcomers welcome. Also, the group holds a holiday potluck at a nearby farm on December 27 (for details, call 428-8824). 7:30 p.m., Common Language Bookstore, 215 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 482-2996.

★"Teen Open Mike Night": Ann Arbor District Library. All teens invited to try out their performance skills, including music, poetry and prose readings, drama, dance, and multimedia presenta-tions. Each act limited to 15 minutes. Refreshments. 7:30-9 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Preregistration required. 327-4560.

Empatheater: Kerrytown Concert House. This local theater group directed by psychologist Sara Schreiber invites audience members to write down their concerns and life situations, which the actors then use as a basis for improvisation. Schreiber describes the process as "a combination of psychodrama, improvisational theater, and drama therapy." 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 & \$12 (students & seniors, \$6) at the door.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

The Wallflowers: Prism Productions/U-M Office of Major Events. Rootsy rock 'n' roll with an anxious edge by this hugely popular L.A. quintet led by the gruff, unpretentiously soulful vocals of songwriter-guitarist Jakob Dylan (Bob's son). The band rocketed from obscurity with its 2nd CD, Burning Down the Horse, which continues to spawn his singles. Opening acts are the Jayhawks, a veteran Minneapolis band known for its gritty country-rock, and Maypole. 7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$20 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS or (248) 645-6666.

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"The Miracle Worker": Young Actors Guild. See 11 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Annual Holiday Concert: Vocal Arts Ensemble. Marisa Bond directs this local chamber choir in an eclectic holiday program of works by Hassler, Debussy, Poulenc, Dawson, Take 6, and more. 8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division St. at Catherine. Tickets \$10 (students & seniors, \$5; children 12 & under, free) at the door. 995-5745.

"Macbett": Dexter High School. December 12 & 13. Dexter High students perform Eugene Ionesco's absurdist adaptation of Shakespeare's bloody tragedy. 8 p.m., Dexter High School Copeland Auditorium, 7714 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. \$5 (students, \$3) at the door or in advance by calling 426-4008.

"Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": Donald Byrd/The Group (University Musical Society). See 10 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Dutchman": Performance Network. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

The Incredible Boris: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

MTF. 2nd Annual Italian Film Festival/Great Lakes. See Events listing above. Mich., 6, 8:30 &

13 SATURDAY

Monthly Show: Huron Gun Collectors. December 13 & 14. Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission \$3 (members, \$1). (810) 227-1637.

Community Garage Sale: Recycle Ann Arbor. All invited to sell their excess & unwanted stuff. Also, a chance to check out the ReUse Center's stock of salvaged construction, remodeling, and demolition waste. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., RAA ReUse Center, 2420 South Industrial. Free admission. Reservations for sellers required by December 12. 662-6288, ext. 11.

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. December 13 & 14. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. 9 a.m.-noon, First Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free admission. Wheelchairaccessible. 663-0362.

"Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. See 6 Saturday. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

It's A Christmas Carol as you've (hopefully) never seen it before—the Farndale Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild mounts its discombobulated production Dec. 18–21 at Ann Arbor Civic Theater.

"Art in Celebration!": Artrain. December 13 & 14. The nation's only traveling museum on a train returns to its home base in Ann Arbor for a two-day public showing before heading west for its 1998 tour. The current exhibit is a collection of mixed media and original prints commissioned by the Smith-sonian and commemorating events of national sig-nificance since 1972, from the opening of the Air and Space Museum to the end of the Persian Gulf War. Artists represented include Alexander Calder, Willem de Kooning, and Georgia O'Keeffe, among others. Local artists give demonstrations of their crafts during each Artrain stop. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main St. Free (donations encouraged), 747–8300.

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Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church. Stroll through a cookie bazaar and make your own selections or purchase prepackaged assort-ments. Proceeds benefit local and international charities. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free admission. 668-6829.

*"Recipes for Changing: An Autobiographical Cookbook": People's Food Co-op. Longtime Co-op member Dorothy Ann Coyne offers samples from and signs copies of her new cookbook, a collection lection of recipes and an account of how she made healthful changes in her diet. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free.

"Artists' Books: The Nuts and Bolts of Book Structure": New Art League Second Saturday Event. Talk by book conservator and artist Julia Miller, curator of the exhibit "Fifteen Visions: Books by Contemporary Regional Artists" (see re-view, p. 119). 11 a.m., UMMA media room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 647-2064.

*"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company. See 6 Saturday. Today's program also features members of Ann Arbor Ballet Theater performing scenes from AABT's production of *The Nutcracker* (see 19 Friday listing), and a visit from Lyle the Crocodile. 11 a.m.

"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music. See 6 Saturday. Today: a visit from the Wild Thing. 11 a.m.

*"Lickety-Split Meals": Whole Foods Market. Local nutritionist Zonya Foco demonstrates recipes from her new cookbook. Noon-3 p.m., Whole Foods Market, Lamp Post Plaza, 2398 E. Stadium. Free. 971-3366.

Family Holiday Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Two hour-long, family con-certs by youth ensembles from this local music school, Includes a performance by the Michigan Children of SCORE (String, Choral, Orff, Recorder Ensemble) and the lunior String Orchestra (noon); Ensemble) and the Junior String Orchestra (noon); and by the Intermediate String Orchestra and the Youth String Orchestra (2 p.m.). Noon & 2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Suggested donation \$5 (families, \$10), 995-4625.

Dexter's Victorian Christmas": Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. See 6 Saturday. Today's special events: Young People's Theater performs The Gift of the Magi (1, 3:30, & 5 p.m.) and the Twin Masks Theater Company performs Something New For Santa (1:30 & 4 p.m.). Also, a strolling puppet as (2:30, 2:30, p.m.) and a barbershop Puppeteer (2:30-3:30 p.m.) and a barbershop quartet (2-3 p.m.). The festivities conclude with the

annual Light Parade (6:30 p.m.), featuring cars and other vehicles decked out in Christmas lights, followed by a community carol sing at Monument Park. Noon-7 p.m.

★Doug Allyn & Lowell Cauffiel: Aunt Agatha's. These two mystery writers sign copies of their new books. An Edgar-winning writer from Montrose, Michigan, Allyn signs copies of Deep Water, the third in his popular series featuring Michelle "Mitch" Mitchell, a single mother, small business owner, and deep water diver. Cauffiel, a veteran inwriter, signs copies of House of Secrets, the true story of the Sextons of Canton, Ohio. 12:30-2 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769-1114.

*"Mastering Meditation": Sri Chinmoy Center. December 13 & 14. Sri Chinmoy Center member Kapila Castoldi presents a series of two programs on basic meditation and relaxation techniques. 1-4 p.m., Sri Chinmoy Center, Suite 260, 617 East University. Free. To register, call 994-7114.

Holiday Open House: Kempf House Center for Local History. See 6 Saturday. 1-4 p.m.

*"Do-A-Dot": Magic Carpet Books & Wonders. Children ages 4 & up are invited to stop by and make Christmas- and Hanukkah-themed pictures using this fun art activity. 2–4 p.m., Magic Carpet, Lamp Post Plaza, 2345 E. Stadium. Free; reservations requested. 973–8757.

*Thomas Clark: Little Professor Book Company. This retired U-M physician, locally famous for his incredibly intricate cut-paper snowflakes, leads a workshop for kids and adults. Bring your own scissors. 2-4 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

★Ken Burns: U-M Year of Humanities and Arts Celebration. Talk by this award-winning documen-tary filmmaker, an Ann Arbor native and Pioneer High grad famous for his meticulously researched and imaginatively produced historical documentaries, which include Lewis & Clark, Baseball, and The Civil War, among others. The landmark 1990 series on the Civil War was the highest-rated series in the history of American public television. Burns has won more than 40 major film and television awards, including two Emmy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a Peabody Award, and a People's Choice Award. 2 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 936-3814.

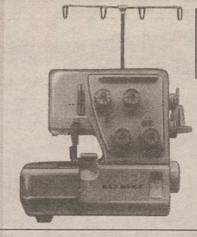
"Skate with Santa": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Santa is on hand to skate with kids of all ages and hand out holiday treats. Parents are invited to bring their cameras. 2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Rink, 2751 Packard Rd. (next to Cobblestone Farm). \$3 (youths age 17 & over and seniors of the over \$2.50). State reptals, quality (\$2.50). age 60 & over, \$2.50). Skate rentals available (\$2). 971–3228.

"Sing-Along with Santa and Sam": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO director Sam Wong plays the piano and Santa conducts this hour-long family carol sing-along. Also, music by the church's handbell choir. Note: The AASO performs a "Viennese Winter Fest" tomorrow at the Michigan Theater (see 14 Sunday). 4–6:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$5 (children 12 & under), \$10 (adults), \$25 (families of 6 or fewer), & \$50 (patrons). For reservations, call



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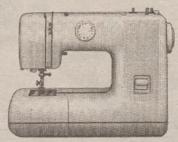
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EVENTS continued

2nd Annual Italian Film Festival/Great Lakes: Michigan Theater Foundation. See 10 Wednesday. Tonight's films: Lucky Luciano (4 p.m.), a powerful 1963 indictment of collusion between the CIA and the Mafia in postwar Italy; *Christ Stopped at Eboli* (6:15 p.m.), a 1979 adaptation of Carol Levi's novel about the endurance of impoverished villagers; and *Illustrious Corpses* (9:30 p.m.), a 1976 thriller about a detective tracking corruption through all the edifices of Italian society. 4, 6:15, & 9:30 p.m.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Duke. 4 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$12 & \$15.764-0247

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10

U-M Ice Hockey vs. WMU. 7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$6 & \$8 (obstructed-view seats, \$3). Sold out. 764–0247.

*Game Night: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join for an evening of Trivial Pursuit and other games. Door prizes. 7 p.m., 4793 Sandstone Pass, Apt. 2B, Ypsilanti. Free. 480–2082. Th

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Duplicate Bridge: Burns Park Senior Center. See 6 Saturday. 7-10 p.m.

"Ballroom Dancing Night": Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing from waltzes to rumbas, with taped music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded by an intro-duction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Baries, Washtenaw County's bestknown ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. 7-8 p.m. (instruction), 8-10:30 p.m. (dancing), Pittsfield Twp. Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$3. 996-3056.

Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Richard Ingram, Donald Williams, and Shayla Powell direct the descant and concert choirs in works by Britten and Rutter, as well as folk songs from Italy, France, Spain, and Germany, and seasonal carols. Also, debut of the Youth Chorale's new chamber choir, which also performs tomorrow at the U-M Museum of Art (see 14 Sunday). 7:30 p.m., Concordia College Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. \$7 (adults), \$4 (students & seniors), & \$10 (families). 996-4404.

"3rd Annual Evening of Sacred Song": Elise Bryant and Friends. A program of songs of peace and justice from a variety of cultures and spiritual traditions, ranging from traditional Christmas carols with 3-part harmony to South African chants per-formed with percussion accompaniment. The charismatic local singer-actress Elise Bryant leads a chorus that includes three teen ensembles—the Diana Circle, Blossom Children, and the Hikone Kuumba Troupe—along with LaRon Williams, Yarrow Halstead, Joyce and Hy Kornbluh, Gae Wyn, Dock Riley, Robin Wilson, Azahman Wilson, Lia Rose, Jeanne Mackey, Lisa Bashert, O. Andrew Schreiber, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, ShuNahSil Rose, Lori Fithian, Asi Wilson-Perry, Dale Petty, and Jeannine Palms. All invited to bring percussion instruments for a jam session after the concert. 7:30 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Donation. 764–6395.

"The Miracle Worker": Young Actors Guild. See 11 Thursday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

Second Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Beginners welcome. 8-11 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. \$6, 996-8359.

"Victorian Holiday Cotillion": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Vintage ballroom and traditional dancing to live music by David West and Donna Baird. Includes waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and country dances. Singles and couples of all abilities are welcome. Victorian attire encouraged but not required. Also, two pre-ball workshops today: a beginners' quadrille and set dances workshop (1-2:30 p.m.) and an advanced polka workshop (2:30-4 p.m.). Live music and refreshments. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$20 (\$17 before November 30). Pre-ball workshops included in ball fee; workshops only \$5 cach. Prescriptation required shops only, \$5 each. Preregistration required. 429-0014.

*EMU Women's Chorus: EMU Music Department. Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. 8 p.m., University Lutheran Chapel, 812 Ann St., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

"Crossroads Ceilidh": The Ark. An evening of

Celtic music, song, and dance. Includes Cape Breton and Scottish music by the MacNeals, a Detroit-area family band, and Irish music by an ensemble of Detroit-area musicians that includes fiddler and pianim Marty Somberg, flutist Leo McNamara, fiddler Mick Gavin, uillean piper Terence McKinney, guitarist Charles Wilkie, bouzouki player and vocalist Mike Gavin Jr., and Gaelic vocalist Dawn Hudek. Also, step dancer and harpist Colleen Burke, step dancer Paul Cusack, and North American Champion Step Dancer Mike Belvitch. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 (members, students, & seniors, \$10) at the door only. 761-1451.

Dance and Related Arts Concert": U-M Dance Department. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": Donald Byrd/The Group (University Musical Society). See 10 Wednesday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Macbett": Dexter High School. See 12 Friday. 8

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Dutchman": Performance Network. See 11

The Incredible Boris: Mainstreet Comedy Show-case. See 4 Thursday. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.

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Chelsea. "A Day at the Races" (Sam Wood, 1937). The Marx Brothers in top form. Chelsea Depot, 7:30 p.m. MTF. 2nd Annual Italian Film Festival/Great Lakes. See Events listing above. Mich., 4, 6:15, & 9:30 p.m.

14 SUNDAY

Monthly Show: Huron Gun Collectors. See 13 Saturday. 9 a.m.-noon.

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. See 13 Saturday. 9

*"The Real Origin of Christmas Trees": Wash tenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC's entertaining and informative Matt Heumann leads a walk through a former Christmas tree plantation near Park Lyndon. 10 a.m., meet at Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971-6337.

"22nd Annual Elmo's Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk": Elmo's Supershirts. More of a tour than a timed run. Meet at the Michigan Theater to divide divide into small groups, each led by a volunteer for a 45-minute run, jog, or walk through the U-M Diag and Arboretum. The course returns to the Michigan Theater for refreshments, singing, and door prizes. 10 a.m. (registration), 10:15 a.m. (warm-up exercises), 10:30 a.m. (run/walk), Michi-8an Theater. \$1 donation. 994-9898.

*"Genesis: A Living Conversation": Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County. Part of a series of monthly discussions of Genesis. Today: Steve Rhodes and Leslie Maloff moderate a disc Noah and the Flood: Genesis 6-9." All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 677-0100.

*"Art in Celebration!": Artrain. Sec 13 Saturday.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market, See 7 Sunday. 11

Monthly Gathering: Second Sunday Schmoozers. All Jewish singles invited to meet new friends over brunch. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Zanzibar restaurant, State. Free (pay for your own food).

Santa Paws": Humane Society of Huron Valley. See 6 Saturday. Noon-5 p.m.

*Parker Mill Hike: Sierra Club. All invited to walk the new boardwalk in this local park, with an option to continue on to Gallup Park. I p.m., meet at arker Mill parking lot, just east of US-23 on Geddes Rd. Free. 483-0058.

*Informational Meeting: Ann Arbor Co-Housing Group. Learn about this local nonprofit group's cooperatively designed neighborhood, consisting of affordations of the company of the com affordable private homes with some shared facilities, which emphasizes connection among residents and environmental responsibility. 1 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 930–6425.

Kids' Open Mike: Oz's Music. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. 1 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard Minimum danation: 25¢, Call ahead to re-Packard. Minimum donation: 25¢. Call ahead to reserve a space. 662-8283.

*Andrew Anderson: St. Aidan's Church. This noted local pianist performs works of Bach. 1 p.m., St. Aidan's Episcopal/Northside Presbyterian church. 1670 President (epposite the Baits Dr. enchurch, 1679 Broadway (opposite the Baits Dr. entrance to U-M North Campus). Free. 663-5503.

*Student Recitals: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Performances by solo students, jazz ensembles, and chamber string and woodwind ensembles from this local music school. 1 p.m., Concordia College Kreft Center for the Arts, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995-4625.

*Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Richard Ingram and Donald Williams direct the Youth Chorale's chamber choir, an ensemble of 18 singers ages 12-15, in Christian and Jewish holiday songs. Also, works by David Dewees, Robert Nelson, John Rutter, and Benjamin Britten. In conjunction with the exhibit "Sepphoris in Galilee" (see 7 Sunday), which closes today. 1 p.m., U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 996-4404.

33rd Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, infor-mal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's famous Christmas oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, church choirs, etc. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by First Methodist Church chancel choir director Bob Pratt, who was for many years the choral director at Pioneer High. Scores are provided, or participants may bring their own. (The 'Prout" edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Or chestra players bring their own stands. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. 1 p.m. (orchestra reports), 1:15 p.m. (singers report), 1:30 p.m. (performance), St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Pack-ard. Small donation requested to help defray expens-es. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 665-5964.

"Cobblestone Farm Country Christmas": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 7 Sunday. 1–5 p.m. Holiday Open House: Kempf House Center for

Local History. See 6 Saturday. 1-4 p.m.

★"Trees in Many Settings of Nature: Paintings of Cecil North": Reehill Gallery. Opening reception for an exhibit of paintings by this popular Ann Arbor artist, the former head of Pioneer High School's art department. 2-4 p.m., Reehill Gallery, St. Aidan's Episcopal/Northside Presbyterian church, 1679 Broadway (opposite the Baits Dr. entrance to U-M North Campus). Free. 663-5503.

*Monthly Meeting: Friends of Four-Hand Music. This popular group, now in its 25th year of per forming ensemble piano music, invites pianists of all abilities to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for four-hand and two-piano music. Listeners welcome. 2 p.m., King's Keyboard House, 2333 E. Stadium. Free. 663-3942, 665-2811.

*"The Ellis Island Immigrant Cookbook": Ann Arbor District Library. Julie Lewis of the local Culinary Historians demonstrates recipes (with taste samples) from this new cookbook by Tom Bernardin. Also, Connie Olson, a member of the Ge-nealogical Society of Washtenaw County, talks about how to trace your ancestry. 2-4 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4510.

*Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in Colonial America. Songbooks are available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. 2-5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747-9644, 761-1451.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Dutchman": Performance Network. See 11 Thursday. 2 p.m.

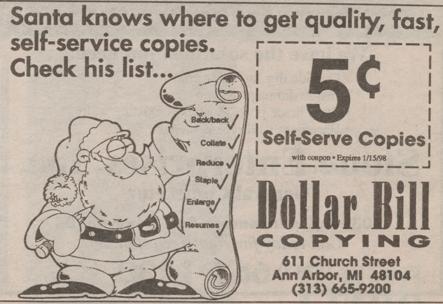
The Incredible Boris Kids' Show: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 2:30 p.m.

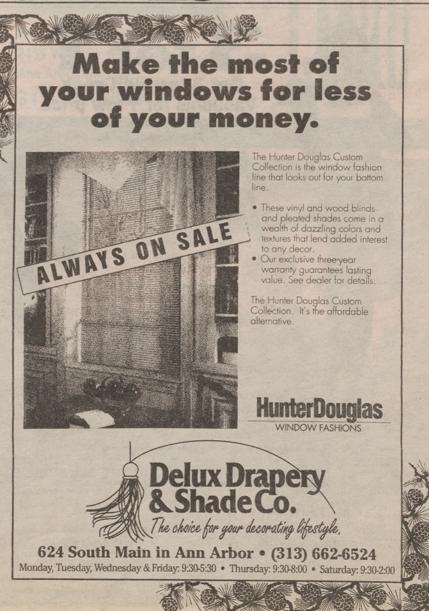
★Zonya Foco: Little Professor Book Company. This local nutritionist and radio personality demonstrates recipes from her new cookbook, Lickety-Split Meals. 3 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

Japanese Tea Ceremony: U-M Museum of Art. Tea ceremony practitioners enact a traditional Japanese tea ceremony (about 25 minutes) in the museum's beautiful teahouse, followed by a short discussion on the ritual's symbolism. This month's ceremony follows the Sekishu style. 3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. \$3 sugested donation.

16th Annual "Holiday Brass": Galliard Brass Ensemble. A popular annual tradition featuring this award-winning local brass quintet led by trumpeter Charles Larkins. The program opens with the group's signature performance of Samuel Scheidt's









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EVENTS continued

"Galliard Battaglia," a lively Baroque dance number in which the main theme is tossed back and forth by the trumpets as the musicians proceed down the aisle. Also on the program: seasonal tunes and carols, and "The Carnival of Venice," featuring Larkins as cornet soloist. 3:30 p.m. (doors open at 2:45 p.m.), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$12 (adults), \$8 (students & seniors), & \$5 (children 12 & under), available in advance or at the door. Group rates available. For reservations, call 662-5146.

*U.S. Coast Guard Band: U-M School of Music/Ann Arbor News. This popular ensemble is known for top-notch performances of music ranging from classic jazz to blues, ragtime, and more. Tonight's featured soloists include trombonists Victor Johnson and Gregory Wirt (both U-M alumni) and vocalist Tracy Thomas. 4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 763-4726.

"Bride of the Isles: A Celtic Christmas Legend": The Celtic Muses. See 12 Friday 4 p.m., Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. \$7 at the door only.

*"Booked for Murder": Little Professor Book Company. All invited to discuss a murder mystery to be announced. 5 p.m., Little Professor, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769-2149.

Madrigal Dinner: Dexter High School Choir. December 14 & 15. An Old English-style banquet at Cousins Heritage Inn, with performances by the high school madrigal choir. 5 & 8:15 p.m., Cousins Heritage Inn, 7954 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. \$20. For reservations, call 426-3020 or 426-3991, ext. 5125.

*Christmas Concert: Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music school dean Willis Patterson directs this local chorus in a program of seasonal music, with an emphasis on carols composed and/or arranged by African-Americans. 5:30 p.m., Bethel A.M.E. Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free, 677-4407.

"Viennese Winter Fest": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Sam Wong directs this professional community ensemble in a family-oriented program that includes waltzes, marches, and polkas by Johann Strauss featuring concertmaster Stephen Shipps as soloist, U-M trumpet professor Charles Daval as soloist in Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, and a performance of Leopold Mozart's charming Toy Symphony (featuring area youngsters playing toy instruments). 6 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$16, \$23, & \$29 in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, Suite 208, and at the door. Discounts available for students, seniors, & children. 994-4801.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10 p.m.

★Monthly Meeting: Amnesty International Ann Arbor Community Group. All invited to join this local chapter of Amnesty International, a group that works on behalf of prisoners of conscience around the world. Agenda to be announced. 7-8 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 973-7004.

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 7 Sunday. 7-9:30 p.m.

*38th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. All invited to join this local Christmas tradition. Congregation members read nine lessons that tell the story of God's dealings with mankind, from the fall of Adam and Eve through Old Testament prophecy and the birth of Christ. Each lesson has an associated hymn or carol, some sung by the choir and some by the congregation. St. Andrew's adult and junior choirs are peter Warlock's "Adam lay ybounden," Andrew Carter's "A Maiden most gentle," Benjamin Britten's "Balulalow," Franz Gruber's "Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht" (with guitar), and William Mathias's "Wassail Carol." Also, the St. Dunstan's English Handhell Choir rings out "The Sleep of the Infant Handbell Choir rings out "The Sleep of the Infant Jesus" and the Hispanic folk carol "A la ru," in an arrangement for bells and guitar. The program concludes with a congregational singing of "O Little Town of Bethlehem." 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free, but an offering is taken to benefit the St. Andrew's breakfast program and the Shelter Association of Ann Arbor. 663–0518.

24th Annual Ragtime-Jazz Holiday Bash: First Unitarian Church. This popular annual tradition features piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with some boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good neasure. U-M piano professor and composer Bill Albright hosts a lineup of top-notch local performers that includes pianists Jim Dapogny, Bob Seeley, Bolcom and Morris (the duo of pianist Bill Bolcom and soprano Joan Morris), and surprise guests to be announced. 8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors, \$7) at the door only. 665-6158.

"The Harlem Nutcracker": Donald Byrd/The Group (University Musical Society). See 10 Wednesday. 2 & 8 p.m.

FILMS

No films

15 MONDAY

Madrigal Dinner: Dexter High School Choir. See 14 Sunday. 5 & 8:15 p.m.

*"Meet Your Local Witch Night": Magical Education Council of Ann Arbor. All practicing Wiccans and interested persons invited for an evening of networking, discussion, refreshments, and fun. 6-8 Gypsy Cafe, 214 N. Fourth Ave. Free.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m

*"The ABC's of Alzheimer's: An Orientation": Alzheimer's Association. This monthly program offers an overview of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and addresses common questions and concerns for caregivers. 6:30-8:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free, but preregistration requested. 741-8200, (800) 782-6110.

*Monthly Meeting: Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities and interests are invited to work on their own stitching projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. 6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw, Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 482-0859.

"Tips & Tricks on the Internet": Ann Arbor District Library. A hands-on introduction to quick, ways to simplify navigation of the World Wide Web. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327-4550.

★Ann Arbor Go Club. See 1 Monday. 7-10 p.m.

"Contact Improvisation Dance and Acoustic Jam": Magic Dragon Studios. See 1 Monday. 8:30-11 p.m.

*Writers Series: Guild House. Performance by Jay Stielstra, a veteran local folk-country singersongwriter and author of several popular Michiganbased folk musicals. His performance tonight draws heavily on "An Old Man in Love," his one-man show that, in Stielstra's words, covers "the usual range of country topics—lost love, growing older, and seeking out friends in taverns." 8:30 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Free. 677–6839,

MTF. "Year of the Horse" (Jim Jarmusch, 1997). December 15 & 16. Concert documentary about singer Neil Young and his longtime band Crazy Horse. Mich., 7:45 p.m.

16 TUESDAY

Searching the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor District Library. A hands-on introduction to Web search and metasearch engines and subject directories. Open to all AADL library card holders. Note: A free version of this class (preregistration required), with less hands-on opportunity, is offered at the Northeast branch, December 12, 7 p.m. 9:30 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library training center (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. \$5. Preregistration required. 327-4550.

★"Seven Steps to Effective Leadership": U-M Commission for Women. Panel discussion with U-M Office of Instructional Technology strategist Christi Bemister (also a local healer), local psychotherapist Marcia Haarer (a specialist in trauma recovery), and psychologist Lora Vatalaro (a specialist in body-mind connection). The speakers are founders of the local Demeter's Triangle Consulting group. Noon-1 p.m., Michigan League Michigan Room. Free. 668-6854, 936-7634.

*Songwriters' Cafe: Washtenaw Community College. WCC students perform their original songs. Refreshments served. 4 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., room 150, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973-3300.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*General Meeting and Potluck: Sierra Club Monthly Meeting. Potluck dinner and socializing, followed by a members' slide show. All welcome. 6:30 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 665-7345

*"Wander the World Wide Web": Ann Arbor

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While studying film in Italy last winter, my students and I spent some time watching the classic films made about the Italian experience in World War II. A subtext to the larger tragedy of the war for Italians was the plight of Italian Jews, a theme that received its most haunting treatment in The Garden of the Finzi-Continis, Vittorio De Sica's moving and visually stunning film about an aristocratic Jewish family from Ferrara that is unknowingly destined for removal from their homeland to a detention camp for European Jews. Within our cluster of war-era films, De

Sica's feature seemed particularly haunting. Francesco Rosi's *The Truce*, released in Italy during our course of study, struck us as an appropriate bookend to *The Garden of the* Finzi-Continis. Based on Primo Levi's 1963 autobiographical chronicle, The Reawaken-ing, the film details Levi's long, circuitous Journey back home to Turin, Italy, after his liberation from Auschwitz at the end of the war. Though epic in its scope, Rosi's screen translation is impressive in large part because it remains faithful to the deeply humble humanity with which Levi observes the world and the people he finds on his way home from the death camp. Only one in twenty Italian Jewish deportees survived the concentration camps, and as one of the few survivors, Primo Levi might have been expected to regard the postwar world with bitterness, anger, or cynicism. Instead, he embraced it-partly as an act of faith in humanity, but partly out of a simple curiosity about human nature

In being true to Levi, Rosi has produced a cinematically engaging road picture, a sometimes grotesque picaresque journey in which a great variety of characters and incidents come under the scrutiny of a single observer's insightful eyes. Levi encounters and assesses a wide assortment of postwar survivors, people of different nationalities



and with different instincts for living in a time of chaotic transition. Rosi renders the events of the journey and the multitude of characters in the same episodic, often fleet-ing ways that made the book unique. He approaches Levi's story with its odd assortment of here-today, gone-tomorrow traveling companions not as plot but as a succession of moments borne of Levi's rememberings and his gift for moving reflection.

The Truce is a film of integrity and courage. It also has big-budget production values and an outstanding cast. John Turturro, an American actor of Italian descent, was a superb choice to portray Primo Levi. Turturro (Barton Fink, Quiz Show) is an intense actor whose thin, hollow-eyed face easily evokes the image of someone who has just seen and survived unimaginable horrors. Turturro's visage serves Rosi's screen trans-

Francesco Rosi is on hand for the Midwest premiere of The Truce at the Michigan Theater on Thursday, December 11. It's a four-day "Italian Film Festival" devoted to Rosi's films, December 10-13.

-Frank Beaver

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District Library. December 16 & 19. AADL staff introduce kids to the World Wide Web. 7-8 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William 227, 8301 William. Free. Preregistration required. 327-8301.

"Just Desserts": Nonviolent Action for Racial Justice (Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice). All invited to enjoy a potluck dessert party and sing songs for social change. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 663–1870.

*Biweekly Meeting: Huron Valley Greens/U-M Student Greens. See 2 Tuesday. Today: Local physician Andrew Zweifler, a member of Physicians for a National Health Plan, discusses "The Profit Motion." Motive in Healthcare." 7-9 p.m.

Rocky Road Advanced Contra-English Dance. See 2 Tuesday. 7–9:45 p.m.

*African-American Book Discussion Group: Packard Community Clinic. All invited to discuss a book by an African-American author to be announced. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Packard Community Clinic, 3174 Packard Rd. Free. 913–1344.

Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. See 2 Tuesday. Tonight: Social worker Ronald Harrison talks about "Progression of Codependency." 7:30 p.m

Vladimir Babin and Vladislav Kovalsky: Kerrytown Concert House. Babin, coprincipal cellist with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, and pianies is with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, and pranist Kovalsky, the director of the Southfield Conservatory of Music, perform works by Nikolai Rakov, Dimitri Kabalevsky, and Chopin. 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 & \$15 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

Swing Dance Jam. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

International Folk Dancing: U-M Folk Dance Club. See 2 Tuesday. 8–10:30 p.m.

James McMurtry: The Ark. Ann Arbor debut of

this country-rock singer-songwriter from Texas whose deadpan delivery and minimalist melodicism often provoke comparisons to Lou Reed. McMurtry gets the most attention for his songwriting. He specializes in laconic tales about the cracks in the surface of the American Dream and the ordinary people who fall through them. Opening act is Fred Eagle-smith, a highly regarded young singer-songwriter known for brilliantly realized tales of rural life that are alternately dark, tender, and brightly humorous. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers. See 2 Tuesday. 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Open Mike Comedy Jam: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 2 Tuesday. 8:30 p.m.

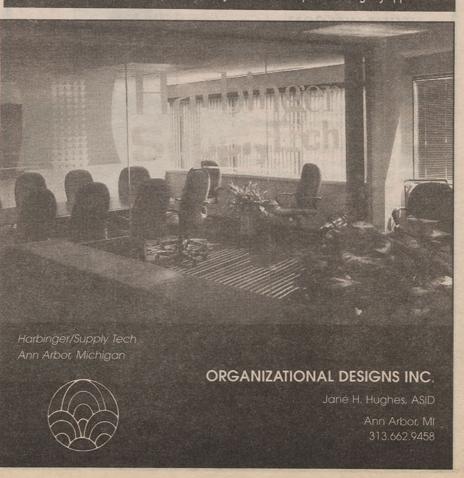
FILMS

MTF. "Year of the Horse" (Jim Jarmusch, 1997). See 15 Monday. Mich., 7 p.m. "Telling Lies in America" (Guy Ferland, 1997). December 16–18. A eenage immigrant to America, trying to fit in at his high school, becomes infatuated with a radio DJ whom he imagines to be the utmost in cool. Kevin Bacon. Mich., 9:15 p.m.

17 WEDNESDAY

*Holiday Party: Northeast Senior Center. All seniors are invited to join for a potluck, live music, and fun and games. 11 a.m., Dixboro United Methodist Church, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 996-0070.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Wednesday. Tonight: "The Popes and Their Art: The Vat-



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EVENTS continued

ican Collections." 12:10 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 3 Wednesday. 3:30–5:15 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*"String Figures & Games": People's Food Coop. Local string figure artists Marcia Gaynor and Michele Gage show kids how to make a cat's cradle and other string figures. Kids under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30–8:30 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. Preregistration requested. 769–0095.

*"Healthy Choices Grocery Shopping Tour": Whole Foods Market. Whole Foods' Susan Bellinson leads a tour of this natural-foods store, with food samples, literarture, recipes, and coupons for participants. 7 p.m., Whole Foods Market, Lamp Post Plaza, 2398 E. Stadium. Free, but reservations required. 971–3366.

"Artist's Way Cafe." All invited to join for conversation and creative activities based on Julia Cameron's best-selling book *The Artist's Way*. This month's theme: "Filling the Form." 7–9 p.m., Feat of Clay, 305 S. Ashley. \$7 at the door. Newcomers should call 747–9128 to register.

★Annual Caroling Party and Luminaria Display: Glacier Hills Retirement Center. Some 1,000 luminaria (traditional Mexican Christmas lights) create a Christmas glow at this community sing-along. Refreshments. All welcome. 7–8 p.m., Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd. Free. 769–6410.

Weekly Meeting: Ann Arbor Bridge Club. See 3 Wednesday. 7-11 p.m.

★"Holiday Travel": Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project. A speaker to be announced discusses travel tips of special interest to lesbians and gays. 7:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 995–9867.

*American Guild of Organists. Students of U-M organ professors perform a varied program of solo organ works on the magnificent Hill Auditorium organ, the largest pipe organ in Michigan. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 930–9940.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Totally Unrehearsed Theater": Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "The House of Yes" (Mark Waters, 1997). December 17–20. Offbeat black comedy about an incestuous brother and sister and what happens when he brings his fiancee home for Thanksgiving. Parker Posey, Josh Hamilton, Tori Spelling. Mich., 7 p.m. "Telling Lies in America" (Guy Ferland, 1997). See 16 Tuesday. Mich., 9 p.m.

18 THURSDAY

★"December Fest": Bryant Community Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). A program of games, holiday music, and tasty goodies for elementary school kids. 4–5:30 p.m., Bryant Community Center, 3 W. Eden Ct. (off Champagne from Stone School Rd., just north of Ellsworth). Free. Preregistration requested. 994–2722.

Monthly Meeting: New Enterprise Forum. Talk on an entrepreneurial issue by a guest speaker to be announced, showcase presentations by emerging companies, and an open forum in which entrepreneurs can introduce themselves and solicit help for their business needs. Refreshments. A chance for entrepreneurs, investors, and business service providers to explore common interests. All invited. 5 p.m. (registration), 5:30 p.m. (meeting), Holiday Inn North, 3600 Plymouth Rd. \$15 (members, free). 665-4434.

*"Cry Freedom": Ann Arbor District Library. Video showing of Richard Attenborough's 1987 film about the relatinship between South African activist Steven Biko (Denzel Washington) and the editor of a liberal newspaper (Kevin Kline). 6 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4510.

Monthly Meeting: Homeopathic Study Group of Ann Arbor. All invited to join this study group that focuses on acute care and first aid. Some knowledge of or previous experience with homeopathic medicine is recommended. 6 p.m., location to be announced. \$3, 429–7757.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★"Santa Takes Your Calls": Community Television Network. All kids invited to call 997–1050 to talk to Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Elf Maureen, who are making their annual appearance on cable channel 9.

6:30-8 p.m., cable channel 9. Free. For information, call 769-7422.

Holiday Hockey Tournament: Southeast Conference. December 18–20. Tonight: Dexter vs. Pinckney. 7 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.761–7240.

*Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children and adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the ancient, elegant Japanese art of paper folding. Taught by local paper-folding expert Don Shall. 7-9:30 p.m., Slauson Middle School, 1019 W. Washington at Eighth St. Free. 662-3394.

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★"Vegetarian Teens": People's Food Co-op Healthy Family Series. Talk by local naturopathic physician Suzie Zick. 7:30–9 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–0095.

★General Meeting: Ann Arbor Democratic Party. Discussion topic to be announced. All invited. 7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 480–4986.

★"Bluegrass Jam Session": Oz's Music. All bluegrass musicians invited. Hosted by Herb & Marcie Miller. 7:30–9:30 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1920 Packard. Free. 662–8283.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Wednesday. Tonight: "The Popes and Their Art: The Vatican Collections." 7:30 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. See 4 Thursday. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

*Writers Group: Barnes & Noble. All writers invited to discuss and get feedback on their work. 8-9 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677-6475.

"A Christmas Carol": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. December 18–21. Local theater veteran Jan Koengeter directs David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin's farce about members of a women's club (the fictitious Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society) attempting to mount their own production of Charles Dickens's famous Christmas story. In this hilarious parody of amateur thespianism, actors forget their lines, miss cues, and fall out of character, often involving the audience in their travails while the scenery falls down and everything generally goes awry. Cast includes Pam Cardell, Danny Ferman, Eileen Donis-Forster, Joanne Lin, Jeffrey Steiger, Deborah Mahoney, and Libby Walen. 8 p.m., Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance or at the door. 971–AACT.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Open Jam": Griff's Jams. See 4 Thursday. 8-11

Kirkland Teeple: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Mainstreet owner Teeple is a somewhat manic observational humorist with a fondness for exaggerating emotions until they assume alarmingly surreal proportions. He's a very gifted storyteller, with impeccable timing and an imaginative sense of dynamics. This past year Teeple bought a house, got married, and became a father, and this weekend's shows will feature new material based on what he calls his "evolving adulthood." Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$7 in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.

FILMS

MTF. "Telling Lies in America" (Guy Ferland, 1997). See 16 Tuesday. Mich., 7 p.m. "The House of Yes" (Mark Waters, 1997). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., 9:15 p.m.

19 FRIDAY

★"December Movies": Ann Arbor District Library. See 12 Friday. Today: Frog and Toad Together, a 40-minute animated feature adaptation of Arnold Lobel's popular children's book about the extraordinary adventures of easy-going Frog and his excitable pal Toad. 10 a.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★"Festive Friday Fun Night": Main Street Area Association. See 5 Friday. 7–9 p.m.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Princeton. 7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1). 764-0247.

★Monthly Meeting: Professional Volunteer Corps. All singles 25 and older invited to join this organization that provides volunteers for various community projects. Each month, members vote on which service projects to sponsor and plan upcoming social outings. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing and orientation for newcomers. 7:30 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 747-6801.

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*Monthly Meeting: Viva Ventures. All physically active seniors (age 50 and over) invited to plan hiking, biking, canoeing, camping, skiing, or white-water rafting excursions. 7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. For information, call Bud Tracy at 663–3077.

*Monthly Meeting: University Lowbrow Astronomers. Speaker and topic to be announced. 7:30 p.m., 807 Dennison Hall, 501 East University. Free.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

*"Holiday Concert": Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley conducts this volunteer ensemble in a program of seasonal music. Also, a Christmas sing-along and visit by Santa & friends. 7:30 p.m., Copeland Auditorium, 7714 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd., Dexter. Free. 426-2734.

E17: Academy of Early Music. This local early-music ensemble, which specializes in music of the 17th century, has been described by the Ann Arbor News as "a hot act, showing loads of talent and polish." Performers are soprano Lorna Young Hildensender. brandt, cornettist Kiri Tollaksen, harpsichordist Mark Janello, and theorbo (bass lute) player Gregory Hamilton. Tonight's program features rarely heard gems of the Christmas season by Tarquinio Merula, Frederich Boedekkers, and Henry Purcell. 8 m., University Reformed Church, 1001 E. Huror \$12 (students & seniors, \$9) in advance at SKR Classical or at the door, 995–5051.

"Boar's Head Festival": First Presbyterian Church. December 19 & 20. First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn conducts the church orchanter of the conduction of the church of th chestra, all five of the church choirs, and vocal soloists. The program begins with the procession of the boar's head, the bringing in of the Yule log, and wassail carols, and it features secular Renaissance dance, instrumental, choral, and vocal music, and a lavishly lighted, fully staged Nativity pageant with sacred carols. The audience is invited to join in much of the singing. 8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. \$5 (children & younger, \$2) in the state of the stat \$2) in advance Sunday mornings at the church and (if available) at the door. 662-4466.

Joel Mabus: The Ark. This MSU grad is regarded by his peers as one of the hottest pickers on the folk circuit. A virtuoso on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle, Mabus is also an excellent songwriter, known for his trenchant humor and eclectic "folk-a-billy" style. "Mabus is everything a modern string player should be presented in providing the style." should be—versatile, innovative, tasty, and funny," says Martin Keller of the *Twin Cities Reader*. Mabus recently released his 11th LP, Western Passage, an all-instrumental suite for solo guitar that blends 19th-century American folk melodies with original tunes. tunes. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 (members, students, & seniors, \$10) at the door only. 761-1451.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. December 19-21. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its annual performance of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the story of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her lo a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. More than 100 dancers from children to adults appear in the production. Principal dancers include Michael Phillips as the Cavalier, Martha Luitje as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Annette Barcelona as Clara, Brent Caburnay as the Nutcracker, and Jamie Strouss as Uncle Drosselmeyer. Performed to live music by the Michigan Sinfonietta and area children's choirs under the direction of David Daniels. Local Suzuki viction 8 olin students perform in the lobby at intermission. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$18 (seniors, students, & groups of 20 or more, \$10 each; children 12 & under, \$8) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"A Christmas Carol": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 18 Thursday, 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose The-ater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Judy Tenuta: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 19 & 20. Dubbing herself the "love goddess of comedy," this acclaimed Chicago-area monologuist development to demolist devotes much of her outrageous humor to demolishing (or at least severely damaging) male egos, promoting a charmingly campy version of female solidarity, and promulgating her own religion. "Judyism," whose aim, she explains, is to "help you forget about mine for forget about your problems and think about mine for a change." She is known as much for her eccentric mock-glamorous outfits-evoking a "prom queen

from hell" according to one critic—and her mock-musical accordion playing as for her wickedly barbed wit. A big favorite with local audiences. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$17.50 in advance and at the door, 996-9080.

Holiday Hockey Tournament: Southeast Conference. See 18 Thursday. Tonight: Saline vs. Chelsea.

Randy Brecker: Bird of Paradise. December 19 & 20. Ann Arbor debut of this renowned New York City trumpeter known for the vibrant freshness of his playing and for his mastery of a range of idioms from mainstream jazz to funk and fusion. His latest CD, Into the Sun, explores a Brazilian fusion. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley. \$10 at the door only. 662-8310.

Friday Dance Jam: People Dancing Studio. See 5

FILMS

MTF. "The House of Yes" (Mark Waters, 1997). See 18 Thursday, Mich., 7 & 9 p.m.

20 SATURDAY

51st Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into eight regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced bird-watchers is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, in some count regions there are also predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small (\$5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in American Bird. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at a WAS member's home this evening. 6 a.m. For instructions and further infor-mation, call Nancy French at (313) 426-3068. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeister at 663-9746 or 665-7427.

*Monthly Meeting: MacTechnics. All Macintosh computer users invited to join this networking orga-nization. Speaker and topic to be announced. Also, small groups representing more than a dozen special interests meet concurrently to share tips and infor-mation. Beginners welcome. Coffee and socializing. noon, Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Bldg., Beal Ave. (off Bonisteel Blvd.), North Campus, Free. 971–8743.

★Monthly Outreach Meeting: Ann Arbor Aglow. Coffee, socializing, and a brief time of praise and worship. Aglow is an international organization devoted to meeting women's spiritual needs. No child care available. 9:15 a.m., Domino's Farms Ulrich Room, Lobby E, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. For information, call Jeannie at 761-1893.

★Monthly Meeting: Ann Arbor City Committee of the Republican Party. Speaker and topic to be announced. All invited. 9:30 a.m., Washtenaw County Republican Party Headquarters, Packard Office Center, 3830 Packard Rd. (behind 3800 Packard Rd., just east of US-23). Free. 665-6162.

★"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company. See 6 Saturday. 11 a.m.

*"Children's Hour": Borders Books and Music. See 6 Saturday. Today: storyteller Annette Bow-

"Nutrition: Monthly Health Forum." Local chiropractor Ann Petrou discusses how to lose weight by using good nutrition: drinking juices and eating healthy foods. Noon–1 p.m., 2330 E. Stadium, Suite 4. \$5 donation. 971–5683.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Tennessee-Chatanooga. 1 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$12 & \$15.

*Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All are welcome to join in a ritual marking this ancient Celtic festival. Followed by a potluck, a raffle, and a hot tub outing. Child care available. 2–5 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 45 boys in its 11th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city" and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing



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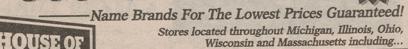
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EVENTS continued

day," and it features "A Ceremony of Carols," Benjamin Britten's celebrated carol sequence for boys voices and harp. Accompanist is the 12-year-old harp virtuoso Allegra Lilly. Also, John Joubert's virtuoso settings of "All and some," John Rutter's What sweeter music," and contemporary New Zealand composer Felicity Williams's "The Animals' Carol." The boy singers are supplemented by men singers, who provide the lower choral parts. The Boychoir's 25-member Preparatory Choir performs "To Bethlehem," a carol written in calypso style. The program concludes with a sing-along of traditional carols. Organist and flutist to be announced. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so come early for a good seat. 3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$12 (students, \$6) in advance and at the door. Family rates available. 663-5377.

★"Introduction to Reiki": Jewel Heart. Local Reiki practitioner Mary Beth Rossiter explains this simple technique for self-healing and healing others. Also, free mini-treatments. 4-5:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Store, 208 S. Ashley. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 994–3387.

"'Twas the Weekend Before Christmas": Washtenaw Community College. December 20 & 21 Reverend Marvin Miller directs the WCC gospel choir and other area choirs in a program of gospel music. 6 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Admission cost to be announced. 973–3300.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10

*Christmas Festival: The Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society. This program for adults and kids includes a marionette Christmas play, musical entertainment, carol singing, lighting of the tree, and refreshments. Also, a Christmas talk for adults. 6:45-9 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free, but donations accepted. 761-4249, 971-6217.

Holiday Hockey Tournament: Southeast Conference. See 18 Thursday. The tournament concludes tonight with consolation and championship games. 7

"Winter Solstice Family Stories and Hike": Ann Arbor Parks Department. Storytelling around a campfire, followed by a candlelit hike. 7–8:30 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$4 (families, \$15). Preregistration required. 662–7802.

Duplicate Bridge: Burns Park Senior Center. See 6 Saturday. 7-10 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Country Dancers. Live music by Debbie Jackson and Marty Somberg, with callers Peter Baker and Robin Warner. All dances taught; beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Also, all string band musicians invited to bring their instruments (and Ruffwater fake books) to a free jam session (4-6 p.m.). 8-11:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of 1-94). \$6. 665-8863, 426-0241.

Josh White Jr.: The Ark. Known for his powerful, intense singing and his virtuosity on 6-string and 12string guitars, White sings in a more modern style than his famous folksinger father. His blues, gospel, and folk repertoire includes many of his father's best-known songs as well as several upbeat, inspira-tional originals. Tonight's holiday concert features many seasonal songs. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Studio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 19 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m. "Boar's Head Festival": First Presbyterian

Church. See 19 Friday. 8 p.m. Judy Tenuta: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See

19 Friday, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m. Randy Brecker: Bird of Paradise. See 19 Friday.

9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Fairytale: A True Story" (Charles Sturridge, 1997). December 20–22. Charming film based on an actual incident in 19th-century England, when two little girls' claim to have seen fairies attracted

the interest of such celebrities as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini. Mich., 5 p.m. "Eve's Bayou" (Kasi Lemmons, 1997). December 20-22. A charismatic but philandering Louisiana doctor as seen through the eyes of his young daughter. Samuel L. Jackson. Mich., 7 p.m. "The House of Yes" (Mark Waters, 1997). See 18 Thursday. Mich., 9:15 II.

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21 SUNDAY

★"A Ceremony of Carols": First Presbyterian Church Festival Sunday. The Sine Nomine Singers, a 24-voice women's chamber chorus led by First Presbyterian music director Susan Wilburn, performs Benjamin Britten's celebrated carol sequence for treble voices and harp. With local harpist Laurel Federbush. 9:30 & 11 a.m. worship services, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free, 662-4466.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. See 7 Sunday. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

"Santa on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Santa in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. 1-3 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$1.75). 761-7240.

*Ann Arbor Go Club. See 1 Monday. 1-5 p.m.

"Bluegrass and Old-Time Country Music Jam Session": Ypsilanti Farmers' Market. All acoustic musicians invited to bring their instruments to this monthly jam session. Proceeds to benefit the restora-tion of the Farmers' Market Freight House. 1:30-5 p.m., Farmers' Market Freight House, E. Cross at River St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$2 donation.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Bowling Green. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1).

*Don Pelz: Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This U-M psychology professor emeritus reads from a journal he has been keeping in recent months reflecting on his experiences as a long-closeted gay man. 2-5 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 1917 Washtenaw at Berkshire. Free.

*Tree of Remembrance Dedication: Arbor Hospice. All are welcome at a dedication ceremony for this holiday tradition, a tree decorated with handmade ornaments commemorating loved ones who have died. Note: Another tree is dedicated at the same time at First of America Bank, 3175 W. Clark, Ypsilanti. 2 p.m., Workbench Furniture, Kerrytown shops, 405 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 677–0500.

★Denise Szykula Workshop Performance: Peter Sparling & Co. Area dancers who have participated in a 6-week workshop with this acclaimed Detroitbased dancer-choreographer demonstrate the Szyku-la's "traveling technique," which combines the disci-pline of ballet with the vitality of modern dance. The Metro Times called Szykula's troupe, Dance Nonce, one of the most consistently challenging and artistically realized modern dance troupes in the region." p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 111 S. Third St. at Huron, Free, 747-8885.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 19 Friday. 2 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 18 Thursday. 2 p.m.

*Ecumenical Service: U-M Campus Chapel. This monthly service features singing of meditative music from the ecumenical community of Taize, France. The service also includes prayer, meditation, readings, silence, and Holy Communion. All invited. 6 p.m., U-M Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. (off Washtenaw one block south of Geddes). Free. 668-7421 662-2402.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

"'Twas the Weekend Before Christmas": Washtenaw Community College. See 20 Saturday. 6 p.m.

★"Come to the Manger": First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. December 21-23. Church and community members present a brief reenactment of the birth of Jesus, with live animals, music, and costumes. Visitors can join a carol sing and pet the animals between performances. Refreshments in the church so-cial hall. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1110 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. Wheelchairaccessible. Free. 482-7380.

"House Blend" Series: Ann Arbor Playwrights. See 7 Sunday. Tonight: Ross Dahlberg's September Story, a "friendly family fantasia" on the popular TV show "Home Improvement." 7 p.m.

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 7 Sunday. 7–9:30 p.m.

"A Holiday Festival: Music for Brass and Organ": Michigan Chamber Brass. Organist Mark Wickens joins this large brass and percussion ensemble directed by Paul Eachus for an eclectic program that includes Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, Arthur Bliss's "Ceremonial Prelude," John Rutter's "Shepherd's Pipe Carol," and more. Trumpeter David Kuehn is the featured soloist in Naji Hakim's "Rondo for Christmas." 7:30 p.m., Huron Hills Baptist Church, 3150 Glazier Way. \$10 (students & seniors, \$7); group discounts available. 485-2902.

*"Character Witnesses": St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Ann Arborite Glenn Bugala directs a readers theater production of his adaptation of Ray Kostulias's book, a telling of the story of the birth of Christ from the interwoven viewpoints of a shepherd, a Wise Man, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Herod. 7:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2150 Frieze Rd. at E. Stadium. Free. 913-4928.

FILMS

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nber r TV MTF. "Fairytale: A True Story" (Charles Sturridge, 1997). See 20 Saturday. Mich., 5 p.m. "Eve's Bayou" (Kasi Lemmons, 1997). See 20 Saturday. Mich., 7 p.m.

22 MONDAY

"Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies and Mesmerizing Science": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. December 22, 23, 26, 29, & 30. Special holiday showings of the planetarium's current show about the stars and planets visible in the winter sky (see 6 Saturday listing). 1, 2, & 3 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. \$3 (seniors & children 12 & under, \$2.50). 764–0478.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas, See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*"Come to the Manger": First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. See 21 Sunday. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m.

"Contact Improvisation Dance and Acoustic Jam": Magic Dragon Studios. See 1 Monday. 8:30-11 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Fairytale: A True Story" (Charles Sturnidge, 1997). See 20 Saturday. Mich., 7 p.m. "Eve's Bayou" (Kasi Lemmons, 1997). See 20 Saturday. Mich., 9:15 p.m.

23 TUESDAY

*Monthly Open Meeting: Community Partnership. All invited to join this task force dedicated to discouraging the use and abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco among young people in Washtenaw County. Today's program to be announced. 8:30–10 a.m., Washtenaw County Human Services Bldg., 555 Towner, Ypsilanti. Free. 484–6620.

"Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies and Mesmerizing Science": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 22 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

*"Come to the Manger": First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti. See 21 Sunday. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m.

English Country Dancing; Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. See 9 Tuesday. Tonight, a winter solstice party; all encouraged to bring a potluck dish to share. 7–9:45 p.m.

Swing Dance Jam. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers, See 2 Tuesday, 8:30–11:30 p.m.

Open Mike Comedy Jam: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase, See 2 Tuesday. 8:30 p.m.

FILMS

No films

24 WEDNESDAY

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department, December 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ, for adults (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) & youths (1-5 p.m.). 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & over and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$1.75). 761-7240.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Wednesday. Tonight: "Fourteen Americans," a look at a diverse group of visual and performing artists, from Chuck Close to Laurie Anderson, in 1970s New York. 12:10 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department.

See 3 Wednesday. 3:30-5:15 p.m.

★"Lessons and Carols": First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's Chancel Choir and Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. 5:30 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.

★Family Candlelight Service: Northside Community Church. U-M music professor Martin Katz provides piano accompaniment for this narrated retelling of the Christmas stroy, as children place figures into a Nativity scene. Includes scripture readings, carol singing, and a congregational singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. 6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton. Free. 663–0677.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10 p.m.

★27th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church. A candlelight service of readings and carols sung by the church choir and congregation, based on the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). John Reed Floyd directs; organist is Edward Schramm. Child care available. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.

FILMS

No films.

25 THURSDAY (Christmas)

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

★9th Annual Festival of Lights: Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. See 5 Friday. 6-10 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Washington Square" (Agnieszka Holland, 1997). December 25–31. Splendid adaptation of Henry James's novel about a young woman torn between love and duty. Jennifer Jason Leigh, Albert Finney. Mich., 4, 6:30, & 9 p.m.

26 FRIDAY

★"Thumbelina": Ann Arbor District Library. Showing of this animated feature adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about the adventures of a very tiny girl. Recommended for kids ages 6 & older. 10 a.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; first come, first seated. 327–8301.

"Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies and Mesmerizing Science": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 22 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Duplicate Bridge Club. See 5 Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Claudia Sherman: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. December 26 & 27. Ann Arbor debut of this tastefully bawdy New York City comedienne who performs in a wedding dress, lecturing men in the audience about what woman really do and don't want. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$12 in advance and at the door. Group rates and other discounts available. 996–9080.

Johnny O'Neal Trio: Bird of Paradise. December 26 & 27. Full-bodied blues- and gospel-inflected jazz by an ensemble led by this veteran Detroit pianist and vocalist who currently lives in Canada. O'Neal has played with the likes of Milt Jackson, Art Blakey, and Wynton Marsalis. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley. \$10 at the door only. 662-8310.

FILMS

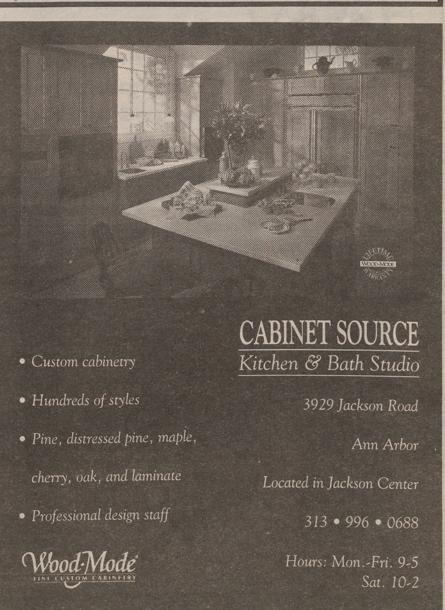
MTF. "Washington Square" (Agnieszka Holland, 1997). See 25 Thursday. Mich., 4, 6:30, & 9 p.m.

27 SATURDAY

★"Children's Storytime": Little Professor Book Company. See 6 Saturday. 11 a.m.

★Kwanzaa Celebration: African-American Cultural and Historical Museum. An art exhibit, marketplace with food, clothing, and gifts, children's activities, and a forum on education (speakers to be announced). The Kwanzaa candle-lighting ceremony takes place at 7 p.m. 4–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E.







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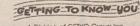
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EVENTS continued

Huron River Dr. Free. 662-3128.

*Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, cellular phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset. Sunset-12:30 p.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1 1/4 miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark). Free.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

Duplicate Bridge: Burns Park Senior Center. See 6 Saturday. 7-10 p.m.

Ann Arbor Ballroom Dance Club. One hour of intermediate to advanced instruction, followed by ball-room dancing to recorded music. No partner neces-sary. Refreshments. 8–9 p.m. (instruction), 9–11:30 p.m. (dancing), Ann Arbor Civic Theater, 2275 Platt Rd. at Huron Pkwy. (south of Washtenaw). \$7 (\$14 includes lesson). 426–2746, 668–7162.

English Country Dance. Erna-Lynne Bogue calls traditional English dances, with live music by Debbie Jackson and Paul Winder. All dances taught; new dancers welcome. No partner necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and casual clothes. 8–11 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. \$6. 483-2291

George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown: The Ark. Blues & rockabilly extravaganza featuring the all-star collaboration of several Ann Arbor-bred roots-rock musicians. A trio led by guitar genius Bedard and featuring bassist Randy Tessier and drummer Rich Dishman, the Kinpins have been Ann Arbor's-and one of the counbase that the state of the stat rocker" by best-selling horror novelist Stephen King, Cub Koda is the former leader of Brownsville Station, the Ann Arbor-based early 70s rock group best known for its hit single "Smokin' in the Boys' Room." His most recent CD, Abba Dabba Dabba A Bananza of Hits, was also released on the Schoolkids' label. An Ann Arbor native who first gained fame as the guitarist in Commander Cody's Lost Planet Airmen, Kirchen plays a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs. Brown is an Ann Arbor native who in the late 70s moved to Austin, Texas, where she plays in several blues bands and regularly wins the Austin Chronicle award as the city's best bassist. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and (beginning two weeks before the show) at Schoolkids' & Herb David Guitar Stu-dio; and at the door. To charge by phone, call

Claudia Sherman: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase.

Johnny O'Neal Trio: Bird of Paradise. See 26 Friday. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

MTF. "Washington Square" (Agnieszka Holland, 1997). See 25 Thursday. Mich., 4, 6:30, & 9 p.m

28 SUNDAY

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Ohio State. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1), 764–0247.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.n

II-V-I Orchestra: Heidelberg Restaurant. See 7

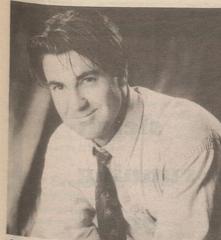
MTF. "Washington Square" (Agnieszka Holland, 1997). See 25 Thursday. Mich., 4, 6:30, & 9 p.m.

29 MONDAY

"Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies and Mesmerizing Science": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 22 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

"Meditation for the New Year." Local chiropractor Ann Petrou leads a workshop on focusing one's energy for inner serenity. 7-8 p.m., 2330 E. Stadium, Suite 4. Donation. 971-5683.



Comedian Jackie Flynn, winner of the San Francisco International Comedy Competition, makes his Ann Arbor debut at Mainstreet Comedy Showcase Wed.,

"Contact Improvisation Dance and Acoustic Jam": Magic Dragon Studios. See 1 Monday. 8:30-11 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Washington Square" (Agnieszka Holland, 1997). See 25 Thursday. Mich., 4, 6:30, & 9 p.m.

30 TUESDAY

"Adventures in Autumn: Mythical Skies and Mesmerizing Science": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. See 22 Monday. 1, 2, & 3 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

Swing Dance Jam. See 2 Tuesday. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Minnesota. 7:30 Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1).

Ann Arbor Singles Ballroom Dancers, See 2 Tuesday, 8:30–11:30 p.m.

Open Mike Comedy Jam: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. See 2 Tuesday. 8:30 p.m.

MTF. "Washington Square" (Agnieszka Holland, 1997). See 25 Thursday. Mich., 4, 6:30, & 9 p.m.

31 WEDNESDAY (New Year's Eve)

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 24 Wednesday. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

*ArtVideos: U-M Museum of Art. See 3 Wednesday. Tonight: "Picasso: Painter's Diary—The Early Years." 12:10 p.m.

"Buhrrr Blast": Ann Arbor Parks Department. See 3 Wednesday. 3:30-5:15 p.m.

1997 Christmas Light Display: Spirit of Christmas. See 1 Monday. 6-10 p.m.

6th Annual "New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. An alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration featuring more than two dozen of the area's favorite entertainers performing in and around Ypsilanti's Riverside Park, where the Festival of Lights (see 5 Friday) concludes at midnight.

At the Riverside Arts Center: comedian-mime O.
J. Anderson (7–8 p.m.), dancer-choreographer
Whitley Setrakian (7, 8, 9:30, & 11 p.m.), and New
Orleans Orleans jazz by Al Hill and the Love Butlers (8:30, 10, & 11:30 p.m.).

At the Freighthouse Cafe (Farmers' Market): dancing to calypso and reggae by Nite Flight (6:30-8:45 p.m.) and to rockabilly by George Bedard and the Kingpins (9 p.m.-midnight).

At Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church: storyteller LaRon Williams performs 6:30–8:45 p.m., joined by Son of Gemini at 9 p.m.

At St. Luke's Episcopal Church: the Jubilee Chamber Players (7–8 p.m.), jazz by the Paul Vornhagen Ensemble (8:30–11:30 p.m.), Wild Swan Theorem 19 p.m. Swan Theater's Frog and Toad (7-8 p.m.), blues harmonica and vocals by Madcat and Kane (9 p.m.-midnight), alternating performances by dulcimer and folksinger-hucimer player Charlene Berry and folksinger-humorist Richard Lawrence (7-11:30 p.m.), alternating performance Shella performances by children's folksinger Sheila Ritter and the Boyer & Fitzsimmons comedy-magic duo (6:30-9:30 p.m.), and contra and square dancing to the Golden Griffon Stringtet (9:30 p.m., midsistrictions) At First Methodist Church: songs and stories by Gemini (6:30-8:30 p.m.), boogie-woogie pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun (9 p.m.-midnight), and bluesman Hayden Carruth alternating with Mulligan Stew and Harvest Blue Grass (7:30-midnight).

At First Presbyterian Church: the dulcimer group Cranberry Creek alternates with Variations (7-11:15 p.m.). Also, storyteller Patty Meador (6:30-7:30 p.m.) and country dancing led by the

(6:30-7:30 p.m.) and country dancing led by the Lonestar Dance Team (8 p.m.-midnight).

At Emmanuel Lutheran Church: folksinger Joel Mabus alternates with the jazz vocal-guitar duo of Sheila Landis and Rick Matle (7 p.m.-midnight).

Also, kids' karaoke with Lovely the Clown (6:30-8) p.m.), and dancing to big band music by The Ambassadors (8:30 p.m.-midnight).

At the Seventh-Day Adventist Chapel: classical

guitar and flute by Divertimente (7-8 p.m.), Renaissance music by Our Lady's Madrigal Singers (8, 9, & 10 p.m.), a Kwanzaa celebration (7-8 p.m.), and Celtic fiddle music by Pamela Meisel, the Ann Arbor Irish Ensemble, and Earl Roy (8:30-11

At Holy Trinity Chapel: jazz by Fugue State (7-9:30 p.m.).

Also, an open gym throughout the evening at the Boys and Girls Club (220 N. Park), special exhibits at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum (220 N. Huron), with jazz by the Matt Weiers Jazz Ensemble (8–10 p.m.), and New Year's Eve church services at Brown Chapel (10 p.m.) and at St. Luke's and First Presbyterian (11:30 p.m.). Food concessions. 6:30 p.m.-midnight, various Ypsilanti locations. Admission badges \$10 in advance at Busch's Valu Land stores, \$15 at the door. Children ages 6-12, \$5 (children 5 & under, free). For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483-4444.

6th Annual New Year's Eve "Jazz Revisited" Concert: Michigan Radio. WUOM radio personali-ty Hazen Schumacher and the nationally acclaimed James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band led by U-M piano professor Dapogny once again host a swinging evening of jazz and blues to welcome in the New Year. Special guests this year are saxophonist and clarinetist Franz Jackson, one of the last living musicians from the heyday of Chicago jazz, and jazz and blues vocalist Banu Gibson, a dynamic singer who specializes in 1920s and 1930s tunes. After the performance, concertgoers can continue the festivi-ties at a party at Zanzibar restaurant (\$5; reservations required). 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$29.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS or (810) 645-6666.

Jackie Flynn: Mainstreet Comedy Showcase. Ann Arbor debut of this up-and-coming young comic, winner of the prestigious San Francisco International Comedy Competition. He's known for sarcastic observational humor with a slight edge. Preceded by two opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8:30 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$22.50 (early show) & \$27.50 (late show, includes champagne & party favors). 996-9080.

"Swingin' in the New Year": Workbench Furniture. Dancing to swing music by the II-V-I Orchestra, cash bar, food, and champagne and party favors at midnight. Space limited; reservations suggested. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Workbench Furniture, Kerrytown. \$25 in advance, \$30 (if available) at the door. 668-4688.

Shahida Nurallah & Friends: Bird of Paradise. Ballads, blues, and standards by this Detroit jazz ensemble led by veteran vocalist Nurallah. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m., Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets \$40 (couples, \$75) by reservation only. 662–8310.

Sluice: American Cafe. This popular new local dance-groove quartet features three former members of TopKat-singer-guitarist Jeff Gordon, bassist Al, and drummer Tom Campbell—along with vocalist Jen Porter and electric violinist Owen B. 10 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church St. \$8 (couples, \$15) at the door only.

Imperial Swing Orchestra: The Blind Pig. This local 12-piece big band plays prewar jazz, swing, and jump blues. 10 p.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$9 at the door only.

New Year's Eve Costume Ball: Club Heidelberg. Dancing to music by Blammo, a local roots-punk sextet that plays buzzsaw originals and covers by likes of Patti Smith, the Dead Kennedys, X, and the Ramones. Opening act is Mr. Largebeat, a big-beat space-rock band led by veteran local singer-song writer Jim Gertz, who plays a theremin (the original synthesizer) and percussion. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., Heidelberg Restaurant (3rd floor), 215 N. Main. Tickets (prices to be announced) at the door only.

MTF. "Washington Square" (Agnieszka Holland, 1997). See 25 Thursday. Mich., 4, 6:30, & 9 p.m.



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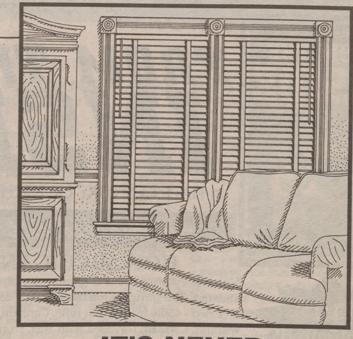
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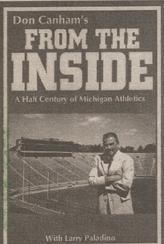




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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who will be playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 0.30 from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Arbor Brewing Company 114 E. Washington 213-1393

This downtown brewpub features live music on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, No cover (avenue Sun), and denoting Every Sun.: Ann er (except Sun.), no dancing. Every Sun.: Ann Arbor Bluestage. All blues musicians invited to Join a jam session that usually features performances by several local blues luminaries and forays into country, funk, soul, and rootsy rock 'n' roll. Hosted by the **Terraplanes**, a local blues-rock band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack, with guitarist Loren Hsieh, keyboardist Rik Richardson, bassist John Allesee, harmonica player Eric Pinaud, and drummer Will Simmons. 8 p.m.—midnight. Every Tues.: KNESET. Straight-ahead jazz by this local cal ensemble that has added a female vocalist. 9
p.m.-midnight. Every Wed. (except December
24 & 31): Ann Arbor Irish Ensemble. Traditional Irish reels, jigs, and acoustic folk, 8–11 p.m.

Every Thurs. (except December 11 & 25): Al Hill and the Love Butlers. Soulful swing, New Orleans-style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano and featuring the Disorderly Horns, former Bop (Harvey) saxman Eric Korte, and former Gangster Fun trombonist John Ferry. 9 p.m.-midnight. December 11 is ABC's monthly "Beer Tasting" (see Events). December 1: The Witch D. Witch Doctors. Blues band led by WEMU DJ Thayrone. 8 p.m.-midnight. Dec. 31: WIQB New Year's Eve Party. With WIQB DJ Adam Acey. Reservations recommended. 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

The Ark

316 S. Main

Michigan's leading showcase for American and in-ternational performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover (usually \$9-\$11), no dance floor, but for some shows space is cleared for dancing. Discounts (usually \$1) on cover for members (\$15/year; families \$25/year), and the same of \$200 mm, unless other states of the same of \$200 mm, unless other states of \$200 mm, unless other sta lies, \$25/year). All shows begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Ticket sales: If a sellout is anticipated, advance tickets are sold and (occasionally) two shows are scheduled. Otherwise, tickets are available at the door only. Dec. 3: Roomful of Blues. 10-piece big band from Providence, Rhode Island. See Events. Dec. 4: Hot Tuna, Progressive by the Property Dec. 5: sive blues-rock band. See Events. Dec. 5: "Come to the Cabaret." Barbershop quarlets. See Events. Dec. 6: Beausoleil. Acclaimed Cajun band. See Events. 7:30 & 10 p.m. Dec. 7: Pat Donahue. Acclaimed acoustic guitarist. See Events. Dec. 9: "Waterbug Records Showcase." With singer-songwriters Andrew Calhoun, Kat Eggleston, Susan Shore, and Sam Board and Sam Pacetti. See Events. Dec. 10: Jan Krist. An evening of seasonal and original songs by a band led by this highly regarded Detroit-area sings. singer-songwriter known for her incisive, gritty Songs about contemporary urban life. Dec. 11: Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen. All-star fellow vocal trio. See Events. Dec. 12: RFD Boys. Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites.

They have released three LPs, appeared in numerous festivals. festivals, and even made the cover of Bluegrass Unlimited magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship. sicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. sicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. Schoolkids' released Live and Unrehearsed, a CD collection of the band's 1994 Ark performances. Dec. 13: "Crossroads Ceili." An evening of Irish music and dance. See Events. Dec. 14: "Shape Note Singing." All invited to sing sacred harp songs. See Events, 2–5 p.m. Dec. 16: cred harp songs. See Events. 2–5 p.m. Dec. 16: James McMurtry. Acclaimed country-rock singer-songwriter. See Events. Dec. 18: Chris Buhalis & Jo Serrapere. These two highly regarded local singer-songwriters celebrate the release of their debut CDs. Buhalis, who sings folk-country originals in a rich warm voice sings material from or their debut CDs. Buhalis, who sings folk-country originals in a rich, warm voice, sings material from his kenai Dreams. He is accompanied tonight by several guests, including harmonica wiz Peter Harrison, and most of the members of the defunct local bluegrass band Drivetrain. Serrapere (see review, right) is known for her spare, haunting ballads and blues and her sinewy, commanding vocals. She and blues and her sinewy, commanding vocals. She sings songs from her CD, My Blue Heaven. Dec.

19: Joel Mabus. Multi-instrumental folkie singer-songwriter. See Events. Dec. 20: Josh White Jr. Veteran folksinger. See Events. Dec. 27: George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown. Blues & rockabilly extravaganza featuring the all-star collaboration of several Ann Arbor-bred roots-

Ashley's

996-9191 338 S. State

This downtown restaurant features live music in its underground pub on most Tuesdays, 10:30 p.m.-1 a.m. unless otherwise noted. No cover, no dancing. Dec. 2: Dirty Hairy. Local rock 'n' roll band. Dec. 9: Original Brothers & Sisters of Love. See Gypsy Cafe. Dec. 16, 23, & 30: No

Bird of Paradise

207 S. Ashley 662-8310 Intimate jazz club co-owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music seven nights a week, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (Fri.-Mon.) & 8 p.m.-midnight (Tues.-Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. Every Fri. (5-8 p.m.): E-Z Street Swingtet. Dixieland and swing by this local en-semble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. Every Sun. (9 p.m.-1 a.m.): Paul Finkbeiner & Friends. Popular, high-energy jam session led by trumpeter Finkbeiner. On December 7 the jam session is preceded at 8 p.m. by performances by several small ensembles of students from the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. No cover. Every Mon.: Bird of Paradise Orchestra. 14-piece ensemble organized by bassists Ron Brooks and Paul Keller to show as a criginal compositions and arrangements showcase original compositions and arrangements by musicians from southeastern Michigan. The varying lineup includes local and area jazz music The group has a Schoolkids' CD, Project X. Dec. 2: Bill Brovold & Eric Gustafson. Avantjazz on guitars and electronics by these two members of Larval and various drop-in guests. Dec. 3 & 4: Ron Brooks Trio. One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club co-owner Brooks is joined by pi-anist Rick Roe and drummer Pete Siers. Dec. 5 & 6: To be announced. Dec. 9: Transmission. Local band that plays avant-garde free jazz. Dec. 10 & 11: Dee Dee Bridgewater. Acclaimed jazz singer. See Events. 8 & 10 p.m. Dec. 12 & 13: Harvey Thompson & Friends. Everything from swing and bebop to blues and boogiewoogie by this ensemble led by Thompson, a Detroit jazz vocalist whose sweet, serene, soulful ballad singing has provoked comparisons to Johnny Hartman. His last CD, Jazz Is Anything You Want It To Be, won rave reviews in Cadence and other national publications. Dec. 16: Bill Brovold & Eric Gustafson. See above. Dec. 17 & 18: Ron Brooks Trio. See above. Dec. 19 & 20: Randy Brecker. Renowned jazz trumpeter. See Events. Dec. 23: Transmission. See above. Dec. 26 & 27: Johnny O'Neal Trio. Jazz ensemble led by pianist O'Neal. See Events. Dec. 30: Bill Brovold & Eric Gustafson. See above. Dec. 31: Shaida Nurallah & Friends. Jazz ensemble led by vocalist Nurallah. See Events.

The Blind Pig 208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local music club features live music four nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-oftown rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Sundays. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Closed Mondays & Tuesdays. Cover, dancing. Every Fri. (6-9 p.m.): Drivin' Sideways. Return (with a respectful of the control of the contr vamped lineup) of this veteran local band that's fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. The guiding resence of the band's new incarnation seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist Chris Casello, keyboardist Martin Simmons, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Mark Newbound. Every Sun.: Swing-a-Billy. DJ Del Villareal

nightspots



Jo Serrapere One foot in the past, the other in a bright future

My first encounter with Jo Serrapere's voice and musical tastes was on her weekly WCBN "Folk Show," where she played records that ran the gamut of American roots music from Bessie Smith to the Carter family. What I liked most about her shows was the passion displayed in her sets and the care she took to explain the history and place of each tune and each artist-like a hip, friendly schoolteacher with a great record collection.

Serrapere the performer is much the same as Serrapere the record spinner: she's relaxed and friendly and has perfect taste. The last time I caught her show at the Gypsy Cafe (where she brought along John Devine on amazing second-slide guitar and Jef Reynolds on string bass), her set included tunes from Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Mississippi John Hurt. Serrapere loves these artists, and when she sings their tunes her voice seems almost to glow with a celebratory joy. Ranging from a down-home growl to a soaring jazzy clarity, she reinvents these great old tunes for the 1990s.

If Serrapere were only a museum curator, that would be enough. But there's much more going on. She's a singer-songwriter as well as a folksinger, and while many of her originals are modeled on songs from the

past, she is clearly beginning to emerge with a voice of her own. At the Gypsy Cafe, in fact, the Jo Serrapere who wants to teach you about great music took a backseat to the Jo Serrapere who wants to make her own mark. She was dressed in a very non-folkie black dress made of some subtle sparkly material, and her entire stage presence bespoke an effort to make music suitable not just for the "Folk Show" but for modern pop radio

And she succeeded. "I Will"-which Serrapere called her "song about being smitten, painfully so"-sounded like a Nanci Griffith hit or like Emmylou Harris duetting with Gram Parsons. Another original, "Ghost," is a moaning, sad lament about things falling apart that would be right at home on The River (93.9 FM). These tunes showcased both Serrapere's persuasively contemporary adaptation of a country blues voice and her skills as a writer about lives filled with emotional land mines.

But it was the encore, "Oil and Water," that really got to me. A frightening song, powerfully sung, about a physical and mental rape, Serrapere's performance sent shivers up and down my spine. I felt horror being a witness to such pain, yet also a sense of joy hearing music that touched me so deeply.

Jo Serrapere is at the Ark, Thursday, December 18, on a double bill with another local singer-songwriter, Chris Buhalis. Both are celebrating the release of their debut CDs.

-Alan Goldsmith

spins swing, jump blues, and rockabilly records. Also, free swing & jitterbug dance lessons (7:30-9 p.m.). Dec. 3: Over the Rhine. Rock 'n' roll quartet from Cincinnati. See Events. Dec. 4: 19

Wheels. Rock 'n' roll band from East Lansing led by former Hannibals vocalist Chris Johnston that has a new Aware CD, Six Ways from Sunday. Opening act is 3 Speed, a local postpunk pop-rock trio that





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NIGHTSPOTS continued

includes Holy Cows drummer Mike Popovich and two former members of Brothers Grimm. Dec. 5: Jackopierce. Pop-rock quartet from Dallas. See Events. Dec. 6: Zooru. Jam-oriented improvisational rock 'n' roll by this local band. Opening act is Fez, a Dearborn quartet that plays offbeat neo-carnival music on a wide range of instruments, includ-ing pump organ, theremin, tenor banjo, bass, parade percussion, and more. Dec. 10: Enchanted Iris. U-M student band that plays covers by the likes of the Grateful Dead and Frank Zappa. Dec. 11: Domestic Problems. Funk-rock band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is Plum Loco, a hippie rock band from Ypsilanti. Dec. 12: Maschina. Unconventional, almost Zappa-esque local funk quartet that features a lead trumpet that is often treated to sound like a variety of other instruments. Opening act is the **Magnificent Ambersons**, an adventurous avant-pop band from Chicago. Dec. 13: Butterfly. Very popular local band that plays groovy, Sly Stone-style soul music. Dec. 17: Nick Strange and the Bare Nakeds. Popular local blues & reggae dance band. Opening act is **Kung Fu Diesel**, a west Michigan rockabilly band. **Dec. 18: The Wild Bunch.** Garage punk band from Detroit. Opening act is **Bantam** Rooster, also a Detroit garage punk band. Dec. 19: Knee Deep Shag. Blues-based rock 'n' roll band from Kalamazoo. Opening act is **Jazodity**, a 7-piece groove-oriented acid jazz band that includes former members of the Bucket. **Dec. 20: Larval.**Avant-garde Detroit jazz ensemble whose style has been compared to John Zorn. Opening act is **Poignant Plecostomus**, an Ypsilanti quintet featuring guitar, violin, and keyboards that plays earthy, groove-oriented contemporary rock 'n' roll. Dec. 26: Big Dave & the Ultrasonics. See Rick's. Dec. 27: Hoarse. Guitar-based postpunk rock 'n' roll band from Detroit. Dec. 31: Imperial Swing Orchestra. 12-piece big band. See

Cafe Felix

204 S. Main

This downtown cafe features live music Saturdays, 9–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Dec. 6: Sur. See Cafe Zola. Dec. 13: "Music of the Renaissance." 16th-century music by a violinist and trumpeter to be announced. Dec. 20: Randy Napoleon Trio. Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Napoleon. Dec. 27: David Mosher. See

Cafe Zola

This downtown cafe features live music every Friday 9–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Dec. 5: Lisa Hunter. Funky, melodic folk-based pop-rock sung in a sharp, clear voice by this local singer-songwriter who recently released her debut CD, Solid Ground. Dec. 12: Sur. Andean folk tunes performed on a variety of traditional instruments by the acclaimed local trio of Cecilia & Hector Courtois, and Guillermo Arenas. Dec. 19: Hope Orchestra. Vibrant rock 'n' roll originals by this Detroit quintet. Dec. 26: Ricardo Seir. Latin American "nueva cancion" by this singer-songwriter.

Chianti Tuscan Grill
312 S. Main 332–0800

This downtown restaurant features live music on weekends, 9–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. No music in December.

City Limits 2900 Jackson Rd.

Lounge at the Clarion Hotel. Dance bands on weekends, jam sessions on Wednesdays, and a DJ on Thursdays. 8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. Every Thurs.: Latin Night. DJ spins Latin dance records. Every Fri. & Sat.: A DJ spins Top 40 dance records.

665-4444

Cross Street Station

Reggae bands (usually) on Thursdays, rock 'n' roll dance bands on weekends, DJs on Sundays and Tuesdays, and open mike on Wednesdays. Dancing, cover. Every Sun.: Ska Night. With DJ Chuck. Ages 18 & older admitted. No cover. Every Mon.: Cross Street Jazz Band. Jazz ensemble of varying membership. Every Tues.: Retro Dance Party. DJ Speed E. Smith plays 70s & 80s dance music. Every Wed.: Open Mike

Night. All musicians invited. No cover. Remainder of December schedule to be announced. Dec. 4: Deep Space 6. See Rick's. Dec. 5: Botfly. See Rick's. Dec. 6: Black Fuzz. Funk-flavored rock 'n' roll band from East Lansing. Dec. 11: Maschina. See Blind Pig. Dec. 12: Imperial Swing Orchestra. Prewar jazz, swing, and jump blues by this 12-piece local big band. Dec. 13: Chore. Melodic punk band from Ypsilanti. Opening acts are Number 6 and the Prisoners, an Ypsilanti hardcore band, and Catch 22. Dec. 18: Dave Dale & the Blues Control. Blues sextet from East Lansing. Dec. 19: 3 Speed. See Blind Pig. Opening act is Kung Fu Diesel, a rockabilly band from the west side of Michigan. Dec. 20: Circus McGurkis. Peppy pop-rock dance trio from Kalamazoo. Dec. 26: Monkey Chuck. Popular college-rock band from Kalamazoo. Dec. 27: To be announced.

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Dec. 5

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Del Rio

122 W. Washington
No cover, no dancing. Local jazz groups every Sunday, 5-9 p.m. Dec. 7: Rick Burgess Quintet.
Jazz ensemble led by pianist Burgess. Dec. 14:
Gerald Cleaver Quartet. Local jazz ensemble led by drummer Cleaver. Dec. 21: Rick Burgess Quintet. See above. Dec. 28:
Randy Napoleon Quartet. See Leonardo's.

The Earle

121 W. Washington

Restaurant with live jazz Monday through Saturday.
No cover, no dancing. Every Mon. & Thurs.
(8–10 p.m.): Rick Burgess. Solo piano. Every Tues. (8–10 p.m.): Rick Roe. Solo piano. Every Wed. (8–10 p.m.): David Froseth.
Solo piano. Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess
Trio. Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Chuck Hall, and drummer Robert Warren.

Espresso Royale Caffe

214 S. Main 668-1838 The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Wednesdays (8-10 p.m.), Fridays (9-11 p.m.), & Saturdays (8-10 p.m.). Dec. 3: To be announced. Dec. 5: Laurel Federbush. Classical and original music by this local harpist. Dec. 6: Jericho Guitar Trio. See Gypsy Cafe. Dec. 10: Juston Walter. Jazz trumpeter with accompaniment to be announced.

Dec. 12: Salero de Spana. Traditional flamenco music and dance with dancer Maria Durante, guitarists Jean Agopian and John Carlson, and Glenn Bering on the doumbek. Dec. 13: Another Bag. Standards and originals by this local jazz trio.

Dec. 17: Tim Wallace. Singer-songwriter from Cleveland who spices his performances with some comedy. Dec. 19: Five Guys Named Moe. An eclectic mix of styles and genres by this local acoustic swing ensemble. Members are vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Myron Grant, bassist Glenn Bering, fiddler Mary Seelhorst, drummer Eric and guitarist Jake Reichbart. Dec. 20: Brian Henke. New Age acoustic guitarist from Cleveland. Dec. 26: Coupe de Grass. Local bluegrass band led by banjoist Lee Kaufmann and featuring twin fiddles and intricate vocal harmonies.

Dec. 27: Lisa Hunter. See Cafe Zola.

Gandy Dancer

Restaurant with live piano every night. No cover, no dancing. Every Sun. (10 a.m.–2 p.m.): Charles Gabriel Jazz Trio. Vintage New Orleans jazz by a Detroit trio led by singer-bassist (and New Orleans native) Gabriel. Every Sun. (3:30–9 p.m.): Alice Rhodes. Solo pianist. Every Mon.–Wed. (6–11 p.m.): Tim Howley. This local pianist plays a variety of popular music and takes requests. Every Thurs. (6–9 p.m.), Fri. (5:30–9 p.m.), & Sat. (6 p.m.–midnight): Carl Alexius. Veteran local jazz pianist who takes requests for oldies.

The Green Room 206 W. Michigan Ave.,

Ypsilanti 482–9774
Alternative performing arts space in downtown Ypsilanti. All ages admitted; no alcohol served. Shows begin at 10 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Cover, no dancing. No music in December.

The Gypsy Cafe 214 N. Fourth Ave.

994-3940

This coffeehouse features an eclectic mix of live

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semi-acoustic music, with occasional poetry readings, performance art, and even some comedy in its back room on weekends, 9:30 p.m.-midnight. Also, tarot readings on weekends (8:30 p.m.-2 a.m.). Cover, no dancing. Every Tues.: Jazz Jam Session. All jazz musicians invited. Hosted by the Community High School 2 O'clock Ensemble. 8-10 p.m. Dec. 3: "Wide Open Mile." Mike." All musicians, poets, comics, and other performers invited. Sign-up begins at 7:30 p.m. 9-11 p.m. Dec. 5: Jericho Guitar Trio. Ensemble of local jazz guitarists Dan Marcus, Josh Urist, and Alex Anest. Dec. 6: The Gepetto Files. Pe punk marionette show. See Events. Dec. 10: "Open Screen." All filmmakers invited to show their 16 mm film and VHS and S-VHS video projcets. Dec. 12: Adam Druckman and Ken Meisel. Double bill. Druckman is a folk-styled singer-songwriter from Detroit whose songs offer singer-songwriter from Detroit whose songs offer what Dirty Linen magazine calls "a generous helping of gritty alienation and yearning." Meisel is a local singer-songwriter. Dec. 13: Transmission. See Bird of Paradise. Dec. 17: "Wide Open Mike." See above. 9-11 p.m. Dec. 19: Original Brothers & Sisters of Love. Eclectic blend of the traditional bluegrass harmonies of the blend of the traditional bluegrass harmonies of the Louvin Brothers and the early rock 'n' roll style of the Everly Brothers with contemporary worldbeat. Members are Timothy and James Monger, a singer-songwriter duo from Brighton, and fiddler Mary Madill. Dec. 20: Starlight Drifters. Sun Records-style (i.e., drumless) rockabilly originals and covers by this local quartet led by veteran local rocker Chris Casello, who plays electric and steel guitar. With vocalist Billy Alton, bassist Kenny uce, and acoustic guitarist Mike Thompson. Dec. 26: Alwin Sisters. Local all-female vocal trio whose repertoire includes original songs, eclectic improvisations, and jazz grooves. They are joined tonight by the Freedom Orchestra, an ensemble led by cellist Aria DiSalvio. Dec. 27: Los Diablos. ntry originals and covers by this new Community High quintet that features former Blue Vinyl drummer B. J. Hill on guitar and vocals, guitarist Ian Wolfe, bassist Toby Summerfield, and two members of Lucky Haskins, vocalist Ryan Racine and drummer Dave Brophy.

The Habitat

3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636 Lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano during happy hour by Sharon Marie (Mon.-Fri. 4:45-8:45 p.m.). Dancing, no cover. Every Mon.: "Space Age Bachelor Pad Cocktail Party." With DJ Al Valusek. 4 p.m.-midnight. Dec. 2-6 & 9-13. Torms Cooper Band. Top 40 dance 9-13: Terry Cooper Band. Top 40 dance band. Dec. 16-20: L'USA. Top 40 dance band. Dec. 26, 27, 30, & 31: Kaleidoscope. Top

The Heidelberg 215 N. Main

663-7758 This rock 'n' roll club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features DJs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays (10 p.m.-1:30 a.m.) and live dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.) and Sundays (8-10:30 p.m.). Cover, dancing. Also, occasional live music in the basement Rathskeller (no cover). Every Sun.: II-V-I Orchestra. Late-30s swing and 40s R&B. See Events. 7-9:30 p.m. Every Thurs.: "Nucleus." DJ Bubblicious spins acid jazz and hip-hop records, with accompaniment by guest DJs and live bands to be announced. Dec. 2 & 3: To be announced. Dec. 6: Company of Strangers. Traditional and contemporary Irish and Irish-Ameri-Traditional and contemporary Irish and Irish-American music, along with vintage folk-flavored rock 'n' roll, by this local quintet. In the Rathskeller. 8 p.m.— 2 a.m. Dec. 9 & 10: To be announced. Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Costume Ball." With Blammo and Mr. Largebeat. See Events.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764-7544 Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. No dancing, no cover. Dec. 1: Randy Napoleon Quarter. tet, Jazz standards and originals, from bebop to modern styles, by a quartet led by this local guitarist.
With trombonist Vince Chandler, drummer Aaron
Siegel 4: U-M Jazz Studies Program. Live jazz standards and originals by U-M music students, directed by U-M jazz studies director Ed Sarath.
Weekly featured soloists to be announced. 8–10 p.m. Dec. 5: U-M Big Band. This U-M music-student ensemble performs works by Duke Ellington, Gerry Mulligan, and Pat Metheny. 7–9 p.m. Dec. 8: Randy Napoleon Quartet. See above. No more live music until January.

The Liquid Lounge 301-311 S. Main

990-0893

This new club located on the second floor above the Crow Bar and the Full Moon features DJs on Wednesdays & Saturdays. Cover, dancing.

The Nectarine

510 E. Liberty 994–5436
This popular local New York-style dance club features DJs five nights a week and live music on one Monday each month, 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Every Fri.: Boys' Night Out. With DJ Roger LeLievre. Every Sat.: 70s & 80s Dance Party. With DJ Roger LeLievre. Every Tues.: Boys' Night Out. See above. Every Wed.: Disco Dance Party. With DJ Groove Boy. Every Thurs.: EuroBeat Dance Party. European-style house, techno, and alternative dance music with DJ Roger LeLievre.

Rick's American Cafe

996-2747

Live music on weekends and live music or DJs during the week, 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Campus-area location gives this club a strong collegiate flavor, but the music also draws a heavy nonstudent clientele. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover (except Tuesdays). Every Sun.: "The Sessions." Acid jazz with DJ Hans Solo & Acufuncture, an ensemble of live musicians. Every Mon.: "Modern Dance Party." With DJ John King. Every Tues.: Solo acoustic performer to be announced. Every Wed. (except December 24 & 31): Soulstice. College rock cover band from East Lansing. Every Thurs.: "Retro Dance Party." With DJ the Godfather. Dec. 5: Brother Rabbit. U-M student pop-rock band. Opening act is Maschina (see Blind Pig). Dec. 6: Big Dave and the Ultrasonics. High-powered, brightly polished blues and blues-rock by this popular local band led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Steele. The band has released two Schoolkids' CDs, including the live recording No Sweat! Dec. 12: Fat Amy. College pop band from East Lansing led by singer-songwriter Bobby Guiney whose songs have been featured on the Aware 4 and recently released Aware Michige pilation CDs. Dec. 13: Reverend Right Time. Funk sextet from Flint and Saginaw. Dec. 19: Deep Space Six. Local Grateful Dead cover band. Dec. 20: Botfly. Popular neo-hippie band from East Lansing. Dec. 26: Retro Dance Party. See above. Dec. 27: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band. Sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilantibased percussion ensemble led by Hugh Borde, who has been with the band since its inception over 50 years ago. The band released a Schoolkids' CD, hot-likefire. Dec. 31: Sluice. Local dance-groove quartet. See Events.

Shooters 11485 North Territorial, Dexter

426-1600 This sports bar adjacent to the Terrace Place restaurant features live music on weekends, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Very large dance floor. Dancing, no cover. December schedule to be announced.

Sweetwaters Cafe 769-2331 123 W. Washington 9-11 p.m. No cover, no dance Live music Saturdays, 9-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Dec. 6: Five Guys Named Moe. See Espresso Royale. Dec. 13: David Mosher. An

eclectic mix of acoustic originals by this popular lo-cal singer-songwriter and guitarist who recently released his debut solo CD, Sycamore Tree. Dec. 20. Wild Birds. An eclectic mix of jazz, folk, and tortured love ballads by the duo of vocalist Katherine Weide and singer-songwriter and guitarist David Goldfinger. **Dec. 27:** No music.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 485-5320 This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music six nights a week, usually 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sundays, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. only), dancing. Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged. Hosted by Chris Buhalis, a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
Every Tues.: "Johnny Reed Nothing but the Blues Jam." Hosted by Johnny Reed and the Soul Plumbers. All bands and musicipus invited. Every Weed. (execut December 21). cians invited. Every Wed. (except December 31):
Open Mike. Hosted by The Martindales, a

local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All acoustic and electric musicians invited. Dec. 4: Dave Boutette. Local folk-rock singer-song-writer who accompanies himself on guitar. Dec. 5: BlueRays. Local blues band led by guitarist Dave Kaftan. Dec. 6: Josh Boyd & the VIP Band. Blues band from Toledo led by singer-guitarist Boyd. Dec. 11: Joe Benkert. Acoustic folk and rock. Dec. 12: Blues Life. Blues band. Dec. 13: Honeyboy. Rocking blues and R&B band. Dec. 18: Los Diablos. See Gypsy Cafe. Dec. 19: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio. Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling rootsrocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Mud-dy Waters and John Lee Hooker blues. Nardella's debut Schoolkids' CD, Daddy Rollin' Stor lots of Detroit-area radio airplay. Dec. 20: Greg Nagy Band. R&B and blues band from Lansing led by singer-guitarist Nagy. Dec. 26: Buster's Blues Band. Dec. 27: Al Hill & the Love Butlers. See Arbor Brewing. Dec. 31: The Martindales. See above.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483-4470 This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features acid jazz on Thursdays (9 p.m.-1 a.m.) and dance bands on Fridays & Saturdays (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.). Dancing, cover unless otherwise noted. Every Thurs .: Acid lazz. With DJs Bacchus and Inert. Cover. Dec. 5: Buster's Blues Band. Local blues band led by singer-bassist Buster Wylie. Dec. 6: Split Decision. Local blues band. Dec. 12 & 13: Liberty Street Blues Project. This local quartet plays Stevie Ray Vaughan-style blues originals and covers, along with detours into everything from jazz and sambas to Motown and the Beatles. Members are vocalist Matt Highland, guitarist Dan Pratt, bassist Ron Kim, and drummer Kevin Logerquist. Dec. 19 & 20: The Witch Doctors. See Arbor Brewing. Dec. 26 & 27: Little Red & the Big Blues Band. Local quintet led by former Bonnevilles guitarist Bob Schetter that plays uptempo Chicago blues. With new member Paul "Rufus" Clayton on blues harp. Dec. 31: Liberty Street Blues Project. See above.

Theo-Doors

705 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 485-6720 This EMU campus—area restaurant turns into a dance club after 10 p.m. Cover, dancing. Every Mon. & Thurs.: Modern & Retro. DJs spin Top 40 dance tunes. Every Tues.: Retro & Disco. DJs spin Top 40 dance tunes. Every Wed.: Karaoke and Open Mike Night. All coustic performers invited. Dec. 5: Circus McGurkis. See Cross Street. Opening act is Grin, a local rock 'n' roll band. Dec. 6: Slug Bug. Detroit postpunk rock 'n' roll band whose loud, fast originals blend the lyrical approach of the likes of Hüsker Dü with the energy of early punk bands like the Descendants. Opening act is Abruzzi Drive, an alternative pop-rock band m Westland and Ypsilanti. Dec. 12: Milk & Cheese. All-originals Soundgarden-style hardrock band from Detroit. Opening act is **Soma**, a local college rock band. **Dec. 13: 3 Speed.** See Blind Pig. Opening act is South Normal. Popular local rock 'n' roll quintet known for its tight arrangements, imaginatively varied rhythms, band versatility, and slacker attitude. Dec. 19, 20, 26, & 27: No music.

Underground

911 North University 763-4652 This all-ages club in the Michigan League basement features live music Thursdays & occasional Fridays, 8-10 p.m. No cover (unless otherwise noted), dance ing. Dec. 5: Sara Wheeler. Folk-rock singersongwriter. See Events.

Zanzibar 216 S. State

994-7777

This downtown restaurant features live music on its 2nd-floor mezzanine, Fridays & Saturdays, 7-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Every Fri. & Sat.: Dave Froseth Trio. Local jazz ensemble led by pianist Froseth. Dec. 31: Dave Froseth Duo. Pianist Froseth is joined by a bassist to be

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PERSONALS

Personals Key

F =Female ND=Nondrinker
G=Gay NS=Nonsmoker

H=Hispanic

P=Professional

H/WP=Height & P=Profession
Weight Proportionate S=Single
ISO=In Search Of W=White

J=Jewish

D=Divorced

Friend matchmaking for bright, attractive, 50s, widowed WF looking for WCM willing to overlook moderate disability to discover independent, fun, loving gem of a woman. ₱5787₺3

51-year-old entrepreneur, pretty, successful, giving, loving, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any smart, successful Caucasian gentleman, 45–70, please reply. \$\pi\$5802\$

Racially color-blind, attractive, well-read, traveled, mature SF. Loves music, dancing, children, laughter, good conversations, healthy lifestyles. ISO SM, 55+, similar interests with no hidden agendas. \$\pi 5803 \mu 58

SWPF, 38, sweet, honest, educated. Enjoys nature walks, camping, fishing, and conversation. ISO gentle, honest, affectionate M, 32–45, for possible romance. \$\pi\$5808\$

Warmhearted, optimistic, advanced degreed, DWF, 47, seeks male counterpart who is communicative, engaged with life, and handsome on the inside. Bonus points if you cook, can identify a foxglove, or like fiction. **₹5809**€3

DWPF, NS, highly educated. Enjoys work, the out-of-doors, cultural activities, time with family and friends. Seeks DPM, 50s-60s, with traditional values, sense of humor, and enthusiasm for life. #5810\(\varphi\)

Beautiful redhead, DWPF, 32, 5'7", 130 lbs. U-M grad, lived and traveled in Europe. Two children. Missing a wonderful man in my life. Looking for a handsome, successful, educated, confident, D/SWPM, 38–50, for dancing, laughing, loving, and cherishing forever. \$\pi\$5811\(\ext{\varphi}\$ \)

I'm an aerobics instructor, so I'm in great shape and full of energy. 26, 5'8", and full-figured with deep brown eyes and sandy blonde hair, I love the outdoors, traveling, and romantic evenings. ISO SWM, 25-35, to have fun with. \$\frac{\pi}{2}\$5'90\(\pi_2\$\$) Slim, attractive, WPF, 5'5", values fami-

Slim, attractive, WPF, 5'5", values family, friends, feminism, films, food, fun. ISO honest, gentle, open, warm, socially concerned, attractive, intelligent PM, 45–50. Letters only. 583245

Tall, attractive, educated, SWF, 34, with integrity. New in town. I enjoy outdoors, skiing, conversation, art, soccer, new places, mountain biking, movies, golf, familiar places, and friendships. Looking for my soulmate to share life. #5833 /2

Attractive, bright, successful, fit, DWPF seeks sensitive, WPM, 45-55, for mutual pampering and enjoying hugs, dancing, travel, music, theater, and emotional growth. \$\pi 584445\$

PERSONAL AD OF THE MONTH

Cute Golden Retriever pup and owner seek friendly SPM, 35-50, for long walks and good times. Dog is fun loving, independent, and adventurous. Owner, 43, has same qualities, plus more. If you're a nice guy with a sense of humor, let's talk. #5841

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Women Seeking Men

PERSONAL CALL (900) 370–2072 18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min.

DWPF, NS, wants to meet career oriented, S/DWPM, NS, 40s-50s, who values people, personal growth, and new opportunities, enjoys out-of-doors, music, sailing, conversation, and travel. Ready for a mature, positive LTR.

■5786 ≥ 2

Attractive, active, professional, 43 years young, petite, weight proportionate, brown hair, green eyes. I am warm, personable, intelligent. I enjoy reading, exercise, golf, cycling, and skiing. ISO SWPM, 38–45, who desires an honest, monogamous relationship with similar interests. NS a must. Social drinker okay. \$\pi 5789 \mus_2\$

Pretty, intense, intelligent, humorous, articulate, DWF, 50, ISO 45+ for friends first. Must be self-assured, warm, professional, and like classical music. #5791 45

Nice Italian-American girl, warm, tall, shapely, frequently insightful, professional in private practice seeks similar, tall, warm, but much more frequently insightful match. Must be a true mensch, 37–50. \$\pi 5796\pi_2\$

SBF, 26, 5'9", pretty, fit, and able to make anyone smile. I'm smart, but not overbearing; ambitious but not cutthroat. ISO smart, affectionate, funny, very secure, SPM, 26–35, who dreams big and who enjoys good food, travel near and far, and music from Lena to Fiona. Race open, NS. \$\pi\$5800\times\$

SAPF, 27, 5'5", sweet, pretty, fit. ISO loving, sensitive, educated, 30–45, NS, SM who is open-minded, and interested in oriental cultures. #5801 /s

Once I thought I saw you dancing on the light from star to star. DWF, 39, ISO S/DWM rainbow warrior, knight of the round table. I've watched for you at concerts, music fests, camping, rivers, lakes, and bookstores. Where were you? \$\frac{1}{2}\$834\(\varphi\)

DWPF, 42, 5'10", trim, attractive, NS. Enjoys eclectic music, laughing, dancing, art, golf, tennis, soccer, good books, and conversation. ISO nice, intelligent, easygoing S/DWPM with similar interests. \$\frac{1}{2}\$5835\(\varphi\)

SWPF, 28, attractive. Seeks tall Eddie Bauer-type who is passionate about his career, life, love. Cynical sense of humor, offbeat wit, and hearty laugh revered. Smokers, drinkers, politically incorrect welcome. \$\pi\$5836\$\nn\$

Mistletoe for us? ISO secure, fun, tall, S/DWCM. I'm an attractive, fit, sportsloving, passionate, DWCPF, 47. Friends first. Let's grow together. \$\pi\$5838\(\pi \)

You—a dashing GM engineer (that's a driving pun) who knows how to handle difficult people with tact and skill. Me—I regret not getting your name when we had lunch. Please reply if you'd like to meet again. ₱5839≰₃

Cute Golden Retriever pup and owner seek friendly SPM, 35–50, for long walks and good times. Dog is fun loving, independent, and adventurous. Owner, 43, has same qualities, plus more. If you're a nice guy with a sense of humor, let's talk. #5841

Looking to share the holidays with you! Intelligent, active, honest, SWF, 37, wants S/DM with same traits to share love of dogs, conversation, walks, and more. Friendship with LTR in mind. Hope to hear from you soon! \$\pi\$5843\(\varepsilon\)

Fit, active, SWF, 34, optimistic, happy with life and career but missing one honest, educated, SWM, 32–39, to share it all with. ₹5840 €

SWPF, 40, active, trim, 5'3", enjoys nature, books, arts, conversation. Seeks under 50 optimistic male with joie de vivre and generous spirit. Possible LTR. ₱5842₺□

PF ISO PM, 45-59, NS, playful, gentle, athletic, adjustable, intelligent, and comfortable explaining feelings; who loves pets, children, and being fatherly. For friendship, possible LTR. #5850&5

Men Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL (900) 370–2072

18 or older, Touch-Tone phone, \$1.95/min. Handsome, athletic, muscular, **DWPM**, 31, 6', 190 lbs. ISO Playboy playmate

look-alike, 18–31. #5784#5

DWM, 45, PhD, 5'9", 150 lbs. Farmer researcher interested in sustainable environment, agriculture, economics. ISO scientist to share farming, travels, romance.

Nice looking, trim, **DWPM** seeks compatible DWPF, 52–58, for friendship leading to a LTR. I am comfortable in jeans or stit, at a picnic or concert. Enjoy theater, art, music, travel, and the company of family and friends. Letter, please.

Tattooed, once and future migrant academic, early 30s, seeks wickedly intelligent, together, sex-positive, progressive (bi?) "babe" for friend, fling, or fiancee. :^)

We were not meant to be alone! Sensitive, fit, social psychologist likes talking, walking, reading, Florida in winter, boating in outdoors. Seeks slim W, 40–50, who is soft, funny, educated, who knows how to love and feels worthy of being loved. ₱5851 € □

SJM, 32, 5'6", 130 lbs., active, intelligent, spiritual, creative, ISO SF, 30–35, for fun, soul-searching, romance, and possible LTR. #5788 \$\mu_2\$

Young doctor seeks smart, beautiful woman to waste time with. \$25794

SWPM, 32, handsome teacher, blue-eyed dreamer, athlete, environmentalist, artist. Expressive, erudite, colorful, caring, spiritual. I seek the holy through communion with other kind souls, environmental activism, Rainbow Gatherings, and playing guitar near a crackling campfire. ISO intelligent, outdoorsy, progressive, adventurous woman for friendship and possible romance—perhaps even a dream come true! If a late autumn canoe ride intrigues you, let's talk! \$\pi 5799\pm\square

Kindhearted, friendly, SWM, 26, 5'9", 160 lbs., searching for slender, Native American or white SF, 18–29, for friendship and possibly more. ₹5805€≥

Attractive, intelligent, interesting, DWM, U-M faculty, seeks mature, smart, affectionate F, mid-30s-50ish for caring, sharing, possible LTR. #5812#5

Super-sized stud seeking fit filly for fun and frolic! ₹5795₺

Great smile, 47, responsible, caring, smart, fit, WM, 5'8", 150 lbs., NS, seeks great looking, SWF, 30–39, who likes long talks and dancing. \$\pi\$5815\$\$\pm\$5

Psychologist, DWM enjoys sports, the arts, conversation, dancing. ISO female, educated, slender, pretty, warm, age 50-65. Letter and photo, please. #5816 52

Have you ended a relationship recently? Me too. Would you like to try again? Let's talk. I'm a DWPM, 49, 6'1", educated, romantic, spiritual, athletic, who loves nature and good food. ₹5817≰5

Wizard seeks Wizardess, Me: 6', handsome, romantic, fun, and active. You: SWF, 26-36, trim, bright, ambitious, humorous. Let's put a spell on each other!

Annoyed by the couch potato culture? Intelligent, fit, passionate, DWM, 47, 5'10", would like to tune to a higher frequency with a romantic, caring, kindred spirit. \$\pi\$5819\$\(\preceq\$\)

SWM with herpes, 33, 6'1", slim, handsome. I am a very warm and caring person. I seek a woman, 21–35, for a possible long-term relationship. ♥5820₺

SWM, 37, sensitive, slender. Loves classical music, reading, psychology books, and swimming. ISO slender, intelligent, SWF. #5821

SWPM, 36, 6', good sense of humor, easy-going, enjoys outdoors, sports, literature. ISO SWPF, fit, outgoing, independent, fun, for LTR. \$\pi\$5829\(\epsilon \)

Sincere, smart, fun, attractive, SWPM, 35, 5'8". Enjoys tennis, music, hiking, coffee, much more. ISO intelligent, kind, attractive Christian woman for keeps. \$\pi\$5824\(\varepsilon\)



Send story to: tammy@aaobserver.com or Ann Arbor Observer Personals • 201 Catherine • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

PERSONALS

SWPM, landscape architect, mid-60s, enjoys reading, writing, biking, skiing, dancing, and building houses during spare time. ISO SWPF, 40+, NS, petite, attractive, self-reliant, to share our lives together, to cherish each other as best friends and cherish each other as best friends and e. 〒5825点

SWM, 37, NS, enjoys the outdoors, going out, cozy evenings by the fire. ISO SWF seeking a quality relationship. \$\pi\$5826\$

DWPM, 52, tall, attractive, fit, humorous, educated, kind, spiritual. ISO slim, W/AF,

ducated, kind, spiritual. ISO slim, W/AF, 40s, NS, interested in arts, theater, writing, spiritual path, travel, conversation, romance, adventure, LTR. \$\infty\$827\(\xi_2\)\$

\begin{align*}
\text{DBM}, 45, 5'11'', 190 lbs., para-professional, animated conversationalist, very cute, NS/ND, romantic, and receptive. ISO a healthy SF of another ethnic origin. \$\infty\$5828\(\xi_2\)\$

Slender, playful, DWPM, 41, 6'1", NS, non-sports-watching, educated. Seeks tall, kind, romantic, responsible WF for warm evenings of talks, more. \$\pi 5830 \mathre{\varphi}\$

DWM, 44, NS/ND, sincere, active, and attractive. Lifelong "Cheesehead" looking for like-minded F with sense of humor to share laughter, Limburger, and maybe a Lambeau leap. ₱5831₺

Romantic, humorous, DWM, 49, seeks NS, fit friend first, marriage-minded woman who enjoys nature, walks, conversation, and chocolate. \$2852\(\sigma\)

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d-u: u-er!

Tall, eclectic, optimistic, healthy, liberal, 52, spontaneous, open, trustworthy, traveled, intelligent, self-aware, affectionate, fun, and sometimes silly. ISO a partner, lover, and confidante for the adventure of life. We enjoy friends, foreign films, NPR, outdoors, fine arts, and fine food. \$\infty\$5845\$

SJPM, 32, 5'6", 130 lbs., active, intelligent, spiritual, creative ISO SF, 30-35, for fun, soul-searching, romance, and possible LTR. New Year's dreams come true!

Adventurous, tall, aquatic, very romantic Pisces, SWM, over 40, excellent health, fit, secure, very handsome. ISO an interesting, fun, loving, SWF with a warm heart, bright mind, sexy figure, energetic person-ality. Love candlelit dinners, fireside whispers, bubble baths; passionate roman tic nights, mornings, and afternoons.

SWM, 40, handsome, honest, interesting, liberal-minded carpenter seeks similar, tractive and creative, fun-loving WF, 30-47, for romantic adventure. Friends first. =5848&

Are you a woman who is: Alluring? Emo-tionally adjusted? Fun? Flexible? Educated? Adventuresome? Sensuous? Protestant? NS? Neat? Attractive? Healthy? Sports-inclined? Lover of water? If yes to most, please write your enthusiastic counterpart with photo! 50+ ₱5813₺

DWPM ISO fun-loving yet responsible F friend, 30-50, for talks, dining, blues-jazz clubs, movies, jogging, walking, biking, skiing, celebration of life, and friendship.

Women Seeking Women

PERSONAL CALL

18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min. You are understanding about my studying, successful, educated, a quick wit, and around my age. I'm 49, 5'9", blonde, athletic, PhD student from Vermont who still models. Send note and photo. 1005₺

Men Seeking Men

Clean-cut, Yuppie-type, GWM, 37, film and theater lover, Wolverine fan, nice, average guy in downtown AA, ISO similar GPM for friendship, cultural activities, relationship. \$\pi5792\mathscr{s}\$

Bi-M, 45, seeks similar for friendship and possible intimacy. 5'8", 170 lbs., blondish hair, and 'stache. Loves music and walks.

Friendships

PERSONAL CALL

(900) 370–2072 18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min. Celtic F seeks others of Celtic heritage to explore spiritual journey in group setting. Offering passion, intuition, and wisdom.

SWF, early 60s, would like to meet friends for golf, travel, movies, etc. I am recently retired, looking to enjoy the outdoors.

General Personals

PERSONAL CALL (900) 370–2072 18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min.

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LINCS: Jewish Family Services' singles introductions/programs, 971–3280.

ISO an old acquaintance, formerly Dana Hawes-Davis, now possibly married and living in AA. I would appreciate any help contacting her. Thank you. \$\pi\$5806\$\nn\$=

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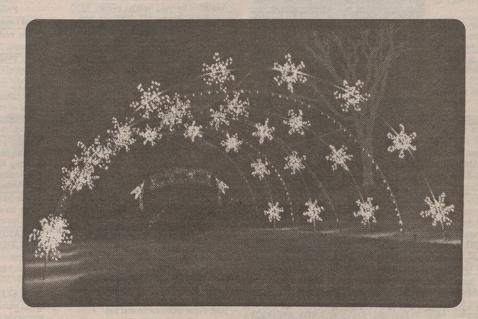
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Ann Arbor Observer Personals

Real Estate

NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this magazine is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or dis-crimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. This magazine will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. For information, or to register a complaint, call the Fair Housing Center at 994-3426.

FOR SALE

1612 ANDERSON AVE.—(Off Packard, south of Stadium Blvd.) New on market, new kitchen, new windows, new furnace & AC, 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, finished lower level, screened-in porch, 2-car attached garage, 2-car add'l. garage, all new interior. \$189,000. Call 483-3275 for appt. SMOKY MOUNTAINS—Gatlinburg/Pismort's Mountains—Gattinburg/Pi-geon Forge, TN areas. Beautiful acre homesites with city water. Gorgeous mountain views. From \$9,900. Owner fi-nancing. (800) 350–6838.

GREAT VIEWS of Ann Arbor Country Club, quality construction, 3 bedrooms, spa tub in master suite, hand-finished hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings, open floor plan, walkout basement. This home is ready for the holidays. \$285,000. ANDY ANDREWS 429-4255 or 662-8600. (LO-28) The Michigan Group

JUST WHAT you've been looking for! Classic all-brick colonial with finished lower level that offers a second fireplace One-acre lot with screened gazebo and a stunning combination. \$279,900. LINDA PENA 662-8600 ext. 341. (WH-86) The Michigan Group

NEW RAISED RANCH. 1,800 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2½-car attached garage. Far west side of Ann Arbor. Solid 2x6 construction. Bright, airy, and neutral tones. \$145,000. BOB HEFNER 662–1867 or TED DORR 769–1532 or 662– 8600. (WA-13) The Michigan Group

EBERWHITE—Super starter home with 3 bedrooms and a great-room addition, Finished basement. Fresh paint and new ca pet. All appliances. Newer furnace, AC, and new roof. All this for an affordable \$122,900. JUDY COHEN 435-1888 or 662-8600. (KA-6) The Michigan Group

GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD—great price! Nice and neutral, clean and cozy. Three bedrooms, 2½ baths. Lots of living space with living-room, formal dining room, and family room with fireplace Large fenced yard backs up to park. \$119,900. MARGE EVERHART 201-4949 or 662-8600. (BE-91) The Michigan Group

ANN ARBOR WOODS ranch nestles amid spruces and birch trees on a quiet court. Hardwood floors, coved ceilings, 4 bedrooms, and 2 baths add to the desirability of this home. \$154,000. LUCIA BREWER 761-7970 or 662-8600. (ME-79) The Michigan Group

GRANDMA'S HOUSE—Close to town Good condition, 2 or 3 bedrooms with 2 baths. This comfy home is offered at \$101,000. MARY MURTON 971-1552 or 662-8600 ext. 349 eves. (MA-89) The Michigan Group

GREAT OPPORTUNITY! Owners are being transferred, only occupied 2½ months in Pittsfield Twp. 4 or 5-bedroom home awaits a new family. Offers open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, first-floor master, and much, much more! Close to expressways. \$214,300. DORIS GOBLE 1–800–412–1191 or 662–8600. (RI–36) The Michigan Group

FALL IN LOVE, relax in the hot tub on one of several decks, surrounded by natural wooded lot. Walk to Gallup Park. Wine and dine in style. \$338,500. JUDY COHEN 213-5700 or 662-8600. (VI-19) The Michigan Group

CUSTOM-BUILT 4-bedroom home on 21/2 acres in Lodi Twp. Still time to select colors. Features 3-car garage and walkout basement. Be sure to see this beautiful brick and cedar shake colonial. BARB LENZ 813-0309 or MIKE ROHDE 662-8600 ext. 428. (TR-26) The Michi-

BEAUTIFUL CAPE COD on wooded lot. Approximately 2,300 sq. ft. Hardwood floors and Berber carpet. Twelve-course basement for extra height, 2½-car garage with loft, cathedral ceilings, and lots of windows. French doors in family room lead to deck with hot tub. Large full bath on main floor, along with master bedroom. \$234,500. JOE WILT 662-8600 ext. 315. (TE-39) The Michigan Group

OFFICE SPACE

MAIN STREET in downtown Ann Arbor, available now. Street level with large windows, flexible terms, and basement storage optional. Call Bob, (313) 665–6173.

RENTALS

FOR RENT-712 W. Huron Apartments. Drive by or call 995-9200.

BURNS PARK & OLD WEST SIDE. Beautifully restored older homes. \$1300– \$1800/mo. 994–3157.

CONDO WITH GARAGE-2 bedrooms, 2 baths, furnished/decorated, 1year lease, no pets. \$950/mo. 677-2240.

SERVICES

THINKING OF NEW CONSTRUC-TION? Let Andy Andre you as a buyer's agent. Experienced with selling over 100 new homes in the last 3 years. For more information, call Andy Andrews at The Michigan Group Realtors,

SUBURBAN AREAS & COUNTRY HOMES

COUNTRY SUB-21/2 acres. Dexter schools, 2,100 sq. ft., walkout basement, first-floor master, fireplace in living room, and 3 bedrooms on second floor. Ready, brand new. \$239,850. ANDY ANDREWS 429-4255 or 662-8600. (WH-10) The Michigan Group

VICTORIAN WINTER SETTING. Well-maintained Cape Cod with 2 bed-rooms upstairs, 2 on main floor, family room, workshop/den on lower level, shed, and 2½-car garage. All this in secluded country sub on 3.77 acres. \$187,900. GARRETT DOWKER 662-9899 or 662-8600 ext. 404. (QU-3) The Michigan Group

PROPERTY FOR SALE

BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY—Brighton Township. 4.6 acres. Open, rolling, large oak trees. Country setting. Convenient location. Hartland schools. \$85,000. MARGE EVERHART 201–4949 or 662–8600. (HY-68) The Michigan Group

CONDOMINIUMS

WORTH WAITING FOR-Spacious condominium home in "The Woods," a de sirable Ann Arbor location. Many up grades, including full finished lower level with wet bar. Formal dining, breakfast nook, 3½ baths, double garage, and much more. \$239,900. MARY MURTON 971-1552 or 662-8600 ext. 349. (MU-90) The Michigan Group

NEW LISTING! Stunning views inside and out from this N. Main penthouse. Two parking spaces in only private garage downtown. Three gorgeous terraces! Secure building with phone at door. \$415,000. BETTY BASSETT 665-0804 or 662-8600. (MA-46) The Michigan Group

Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

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Rapsodia Ensemble provides exquisite string music for all special events. Reasonable rates. (313) 747–8106.

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Music for all occasio Announcing our new CD: "SERENITY" Beautiful music makes a great holiday gift. Rochelle 475–1660 or Nancy 994–5457

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Ann Arbor Federation of Musiciansferrals or list of professional musicians and groups. 668-8041.

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Brazilian Portuguese for business or travel. Rapid, all levels. 485-3842

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CLARINET LESSONS 10 yrs.' experience, beginners & up Ann Arbor home, (313) 747–8853

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'93 Plymouth Laser. Excellent condition, low miles, auto, air, sunroof. \$7,000 or best offer. (810) 721–9025.

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Miscellaneous

Downtown Monthly Permit Parking 332–3764 or 663–9122

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Wanted for members' lounge. Nonprofit, charitable organization. Generous appraisals for tax purposes. 663-1580.

Experienced caregiver wanted in Old West Side Ann Arbor home. Approx. 33 hrs/week, during school hours with school vacations off. Beginning in mid-January. Call 663–2075.

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RATES & GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIEDS AND PERSONALS

- Each letter, punctuation mark, and word space counts as a box. Capital letters use two boxes.
 Average 36 characters per line.
 Use only standard abbreviations.
 Move word to the next line if it does not fit completely at the end of a line.
 Ads will run in the next open issue.
 For Classifieds Only—

- For Classifieds Only—
 \$5.50 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion. 2 line minimum.
 For Personals Only—
 All ads are assigned a single number for Personal Call and written responses.
 An instruction sheet for Personal Call will be mailed to the advertiser.
 Written responses will be forwarded to the advertiser up to one year after the ad appears in print.
 Ads must be submitted in writing by the deadline. No phone calls please.
 First four lines are free for singles seeking relationship in the personals.
 \$5.50 arch additional.
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NAME ADDRESS CITY PHONE

□ PLEASE CHARGE MY: □ VISA □ MASTERCARD □ CHECK ENCLOSED ACCOUNT NUMBER EXP DATE

SIGNATURE

PERSONALS— (See ad on page 141 for detailed information on placing or responding to a personal ad.)
All Classified and Personal Ads will automatically appear on our Web page, www.arborweb.com

CHECK APPROPRIATE PERSONALS CATEGORY

☐ Women Seeking Men ☐ Women Seeking Women

☐ Men Seeking Women ☐ Men Seeking Men

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We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads. Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (313) 769-3175, Fax (313) 769-3375

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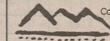
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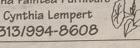
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Ann Arbor Observer

December 1997

Volume 5 Number 7



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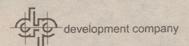


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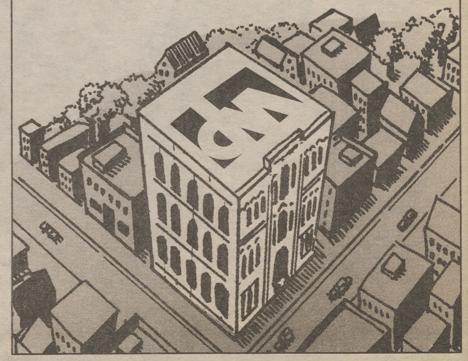


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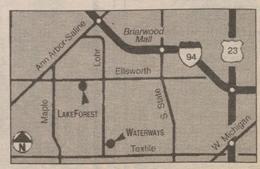


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OCTOBER 1997 1157 Wa \$315,000 Condo/Co-op New construction For sale by owner This map displays residential sales reported by assessors and the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors' MLS. It is believed to be accurate but is not guaranteed or warranted.

October brought a home-sales boomlet. A total of 269 properties were sold, a stunning 50 percent increase over last October. One quarter, sixty-seven homes, were sold by owner.

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Home builders held their onethird share on the market by selling eighty-seven homes, up from fifty-six last year. Wexford's "Ravines" woke up a sleepy corner of Scio Township, big time: the map shows eight new home sales in the subdivision, which has room for 236. The development is north of Scio Church and Oak Valley roads.

2025 Valleyview sold for a daunting \$1.32 million after just two weeks on the market. The 7,233-square-foot brick Geddes Glen manse on one acre in Superior Township includes six bedrooms and six and a half baths. It was built in 1992. The "for sale by owner" across the street at 2030 Valleyview sold for \$811,400. (The

Hoover mansion at 2015 Washtenaw sold in October for \$1,872,000, but didn't make the Home Sales Map because it was converted to an office some years back.)

耳

An isolated five-acre mini-farm in Pittsfield sold for \$230,000. 4805 Stone School was built in 1870. With five bedrooms and two bathrooms, the house takes up 2,896 square feet. Another antique, 1214 Pontiac Trail, on Ann Arbor's north side, was built

in 1863. The 1,539-square-foot Greek Revival includes three bedrooms and two baths. It sold for \$117,000. Both took four months to find buyers.

Modest but notable homes include 4218 Packard in Arbor Heights. This small Pittsfield condominium sold for \$40,000. Tiny 210 Virginia, a single-family home on the west side of the city, sold for \$68,000.

-Kevin Duke

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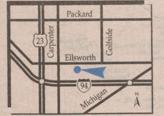
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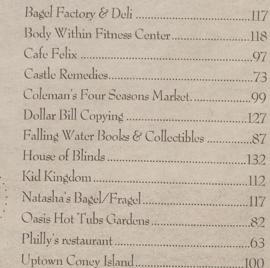
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DISCOVER

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE



A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 103 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 103.

Classical & Religious Music

- Flutist Philip Dikeman, Dec. 5
- U-M Friars, Dec. 5
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 6
- Ann Arbor Symphony & the University Choral Union in Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 6 & 7
- EMU Festival of Lessons & Carols, Dec. 7
- Mimosa flute & marimba duo, Dec. 7
- Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, Dec. 7
- U-M Gospel Chorale, Dec. 7
- U-M music faculty performance of "The Complete Songs of Henri Duparc," Dec. 10
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 12
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 13 & 14
- "Evening of Sacred Song" with Elise Bryant & Friends, Dec. 13
- Community "Messiah" Sing, Dec. 14
- Galliard Brass Ensemble, Dec. 14
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 14
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 14
- Cellist Vladimir Babin & pianist Vladislav Kovalsky, Dec. 16
- E17 early-music ensemble, Dec. 19
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 20
- Michigan Chamber Brass, Dec. 21
- First Presbyterian Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24
- First Baptist Church Lessons & Carols, Dec. 24

Films

• Italian Film Festival with the Midwest premiere of *The Truce* and other Francesco Rosi films, Dec. 10–13

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Roomful of Blues (blues), Dec. 3
- Over the Rhine (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 3
- · Hot Tuna (blues-rock), Dec. 4
- Sara Wheeler (singer-songwriter), Dec. 5
- Huron Valley Harmonizers (barbershop), Dec. 5
- Jackopierce (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 5
- Waterbug Records singer-songwriters Andrew Calhoun, Kat Eggleston, Susan Shore, & Sam Pacetti, Dec. 9
- Dee Dee Bridgewater (jazz), Dec. 10 & 11
- The Wallflowers & the Jayhawks (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 12
- U.S. Coast Guard Band (American pop), Dec. 14
- "Ragtime Holiday Bash" with pianists Bill Albright, Jim Dapogny, Bob Seeley, and Bolcom & Morris, Dec. 14
- James McMurtry & Fred Eaglesmith (folkcountry), Dec. 16
- Randy Brecker (jazz), Dec. 19 & 20
- Johnny O'Neal Trio (jazz), Dec. 26 & 27
- George Bedard & the Kingpins, Cub Koda, Billy Kirchen, & Sarah Brown (blues & rockabilly), Dec. 27
- "Jazz Revisited" New Year's Eve concert with James Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band, Franz Jackson, & Banu Gibson, Dec. 31

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- "Klezmer Summit" with Itzhak Perlman, the Klezmatics, Brave Old World, the Klezmer Conservatory Band, and the Andy Statman Klezmer Orchestra, Dec. 2
- Beausoleil (Cajun), Dec. 6
- Pat Donahue (folk), Dec. 7
- El Mariachi Michicano, Dec. 10
- · Herdman, Hills, & Mangsen (folk), Dec. 11
- · "Crossroads Ceilidh" (Irish), Dec. 13
- Joel Mabus (folk), Dec. 19
- Josh White Jr. (folk), Dec. 20

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- Escanaba in da Moonlight, Dec. 3–7, 10–14, 7 16–20
- Princess Ida (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 4-7
- Guys and Dolls (EMU Theater Department),
- No Exit (Peridot Productions), Dec. 4-7
- Henry V (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 4-7
- An Italian Straw Hat (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 5–7
- La Boutique Fantasque (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 6 & 7
- The Harlem Nutcracker (Donald Byrd/ The Group), Dec. 10–14
- The Miracle Worker (Young Actors Guild),
- Dec. 11–13
 Dutchman (Performance Network),
- Macbett (Dexter High School), Dec. 12 & 13
- A Christmas Carol (Ann Arbor Civic
- Theater), Dec. 18–21

 The Nutcracker (Ann Arbor Ballet
- Theater), Dec. 19–21
- Character Witnesses (St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church), Dec. 21

Lectures & Readings

- · Ecologist Gary Paul Nabhan, Dec. 1
- Novelist Jonis Agee, Dec. 2
- Screenwriter & novelist John Briley, Dec. 4 & 6
- Essayist Dan Minock, Dec. 5
- Journalist Martin Lee, Dec. 6 & 8
- U-M physicist John Yukich, Dec. 6 & 13
- Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, Dec. 13

Miscellaneous

- Kiwanis Christmas Sale, Dec. 6
- Washtenaw Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 20

The Harlem Nutcracker, Donald Byrd's jazzy, innovative take on the famous Christmas ballet, returns to the Power Center, Dec. 10–14. Related lectures and other events celebrating African-American culture and history are held throughout the week.

Comedy & Performance Art

- Sandy Lawson's one-woman show "Shame on Me," Dec. 2
- The Incredible Boris (hypnotist), Dec. 4-7 & 11-14
- Comics Mike Bonner & Horace Sanders, Dec. 5
- Gepetto Files marionettes, Dec. 6
- Comic Kirkland Teeple, Dec. 18
- Comic Judy Tenuta, Dec. 19 & 20
- Comic Claudia Sherman, Dec. 26 & 27
- Jackie Flynn, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- · Domino's Christmas Light Display, nightly
- Ypsilanti Festival of Lights, Dec. 5–7, 12–14, 19–21, 24, 25, & 31
- Holiday bazaars, Dec. 4-7
- Christmas Creche display, Dec. 5-8
- Saline Christmas Parade & Santa's Village, Dec. 5
- Chelsea Festival of Lights, Dec. 5-7
- Concordia College Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 5–7
- Washtenaw Council for the Arts "Art Day,"
 Dec. 6 & 7
- Dexter Victorian Christmas, Dec. 6 & 13
- Waterloo Farm Museum Victorian Christmas, Dec. 6 & 7
- Jewish Book Fair, Dec. 6 & 7
- "Holiday Homes of Historic Ypsilanti," Dec. 7
- Matthaei Botanical Gardens "Celebration of Light," Dec. 7
- First Presbyterian Church "Boar's Head Festival," Dec. 19 & 20
- Kwanzaa celebration, Dec. 27
- Ypsilanti "New Year Jubilee," Dec. 31

Family & Kids' Stuff

- Stuart Little (Junior Theater), Dec. 4-7
- The Incredible Boris (hypnotist) children's shows, Dec. 7 & 14
- EMU Symphony children's concert, Dec. 5
- "Deck the Halls with Dinosaurs" (U-M Exhibit Museum), Dec. 6
- · Julie Austin children's concert, Dec. 6
- · Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 7
- Charlotte's Web (Theaterworks USA), Dec. 7
- Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts family concerts, Dec. 13
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra family carol sing-along, Dec. 13

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

• The Celtic Muses' "Bride of the Isles: A Celtic Christmas Legend," Dec. 12 & 14

ANN ARBOR Symphony Orchestra MUSIC IN THE KEY OF A.

Sing-Along with Santa and Sam

Saturday, December 13, 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Enjoy the beautiful sounds of the bell choir from Bethlehem United Church of Christ and sing your favorite holiday songs with Maestro Samuel Wong at the piano. Fun for the whole family! Call 994-4801 for tickets, \$5 (child) - \$50 (patron).

Viennese Winter Fest

Sunday, December 14, 6 p.m., Michigan Theater.

From the *Toy Symphony* with children from Emerson, Angell, Haisley and Thurston Elementary Schools and Ypsilanti High School playing the "toy" instruments to Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto* featuring Charles Daval; from the *Thunder and Lightning Polka* to *Souvenir of Vienna* featuring Stephen Shipps, enjoy an evening of festive Viennese music.

Cosponsored by Comerca with support from Target.

Third Annual Mozart Birthday Bash

Saturday, January 24, 8 p.m., Michigan Theater.

A²SO Youth Soloist Competition winners Hilary
Scop, clarinet, and Kyle Hoyt, horn, are showcased in concerti by Mozart and the orchestra will
conclude the evening with Symphony no. 38.

Sponsored by TriMas Corporation

Tickets for the Viennese Winter Fest and Mozart Birthday Bash are \$16, \$23, and \$29, with discounts for seniors, students, and children. Call (313) 994-4801 or stop by 527 E Liberty, Ste 208, M-F 8-5 pm. Tickets also available at MIchigan Theater box office beginning at noon day of concert. Find us at www.wwnet.com/~a2so.

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CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE 1928 - 1998

2ND ANNUAL ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL/GREAT LAKES DEC. 10-13 WELCOMES FRANCESCO ROSI

Italian film director Francesco Rosi will attend the premiere of his latest film, The Truce, starring John Turturro on December 11 at 7:30 PM. The Truce is based on the memoir of Italian writer Primo Levi. The remainder of this four-day festival features ten of Rosi's best known and critically acclaimed films. Presented by with the Consulate of Italy in Detroit, the Michigan Theater, and the U-M Program in Film and Video Studies. Additional support is provided by Italtractor of Modena, Italy, Letts Industries of Detroit, the U-M International Institute, the U-M Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, the U-M Hillel, and Miramax Films which will provide the print of The Truce. The newly struck 35mm prints of the remaining 10 films are provided by the Italian film studio Cinecitta International, a division of Ente Cinema S.p.A

THE CIRCUS

CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF MOVIE PALACE SPLENDOR

1998 will be a year for celebration -- it is the Michigan Theater's 70th Anniversary. On Saturday, January 17, 1998, the celebration begins with a special presentation of Charlie Chaplin's

1928 film classic *The Circus*. In the highly entertaining style of the silent era there will be a live-on-stage vaudeville style prologue, newsreels and animated films. The feature film is presented with live musical accompaniment by the Michigan Sinfonietta under the direction of the internationally renowned film score conductor Gillian Anderson.

Tickets are available at any Ticketmaster outlet, at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (313/763-TKTS), by calling the Michigan Theater at 313/668-TIME, or to charge by phone call 248/645-6666. The Michigan Theater is located at 603 E. Liberty in downtown Ann Arbor. Call us at 313/668-8397. Look us up at

http://www.michtheater.com/mt/

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